



Where to relax in Sanlitun

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Culture, quiet in Lu Xun's home

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History's forgotten sacrifice

Yang Yuxing was one of many soldiers sent with the Chinese expeditionary force to guard the southwest and help the British repel the Japanese army in Burma during World War II.

Within three years, half of the force's 400,000 soldiers were killed in action.

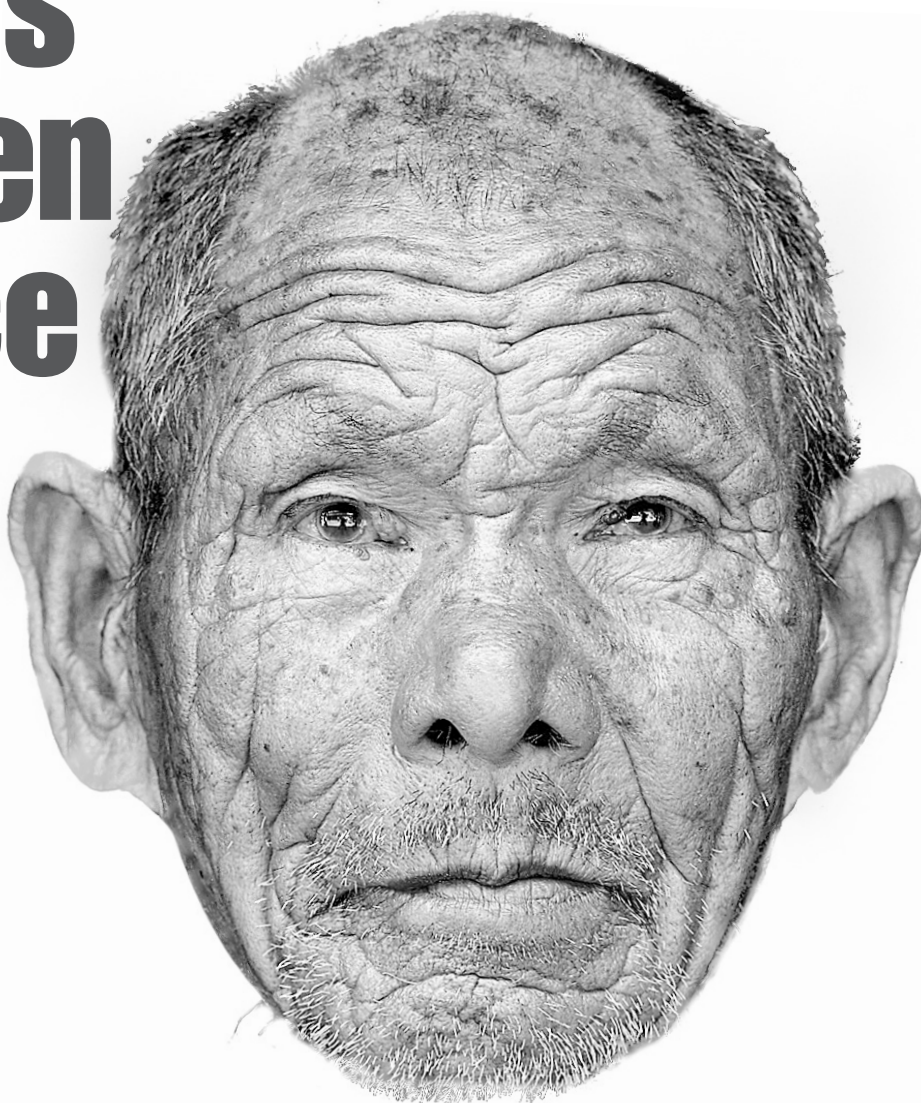
Their fierce battles had lapsed from memory when Wang Huasha, a photographer from Yunnan Province, started to photograph the surviving veterans in 2007.

With the battered cities rebuilt, only the veterans' faces, furrowed and etched by war and age, remain as evidence of the past.

Zhou Chaoxian, 85 (featured right), was pressed into joining the expeditionary force while planting rice in his field.

See the story behind the faces on

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Law spells hope
for neglected
transsexuals

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'Buy China'
a request,
not a rule

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Guangzhou
enacts new
One-Dog Policy

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Phone expert
finds pirate
innovation

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City gets tough on H1N1 prevention

By Han Manman

Beijing's government organizations, business and public institutions found negligent in implementing A/H1N1 flu emergency measures will be fined up to 200,000 yuan, the local government said Tuesday.

The municipal government plans to severely punish local businesses and individuals responsible for any spread of the A/H1N1 virus.

Negligent businesses would have daily operations suspended or their licenses revoked and could face fines of 50,000 to 200,000 yuan. Any confirmed or suspected A/H1N1 patients who refuse to accept quarantine or medical treatment and spread the disease could face criminal charges.

Violators of the disease prevention and control rules, whether businesses or individuals, may also need to pay victims compensation.

Beijing issued a warning to its 14th A/H1N1 patient, identified as He, for having

exposed many people to the virus.

During the four days before it was confirmed that he had the A/H1N1 virus, he went out in public frequently and took several taxis without keeping receipts, making it more difficult for authorities to locate those with whom he came in contact, the government said.

A total of 41 students have now contracted the A/H1N1 flu at the Shipai Township Central Primary School in Dongguan, Guangdong Province. In response to this first case of A/H1N1 group infection among students, authorities are now focusing on preventive measures to contain further spread within the community.

From this Monday, all students at Beijing's kindergartens and primary and middle schools will have to have their temperatures taken before they can enter the school.

Parents accompanying students will also have their temperatures checked as the capital tightens its scrutiny.

"Our school has already implemented the new measure, and so far, nobody has been detected with a high temperature," Ma Qiang, a teacher from Beijing Yucai Primary School, said.

She said students previously had to hand over a form detailing their temperatures to the school.

Students must also report their external travels to schools. Anyone who has made a trip or had close contact with people who have returned from overseas must be confined at home and kept under observation for seven days.

District and county-level health and education authorities will decide which students and teachers should be isolated if a school reports three or more cases of the flu.

Beijing reported 93 cases of swine flu as of Wednesday evening. The country has reported 528 cases with no deaths. Among the patients, 275 have been discharged from hospitals while another 253 remain in treatment.

Tax measures fall on both liquor and tobacco

By Zhang Dongya

Local media reported that new regulations on the excise tax of baijiu, Chinese spirits, are expected to go public this week and take effect next month. The new regulation would double the tax currently paid by liquor companies.

No formal announcement about the liquor tax hike was made at press time.

Beijing Erguotou Company, one of the largest liquor manufacturers in town, said it heard about the tax hike, but was unsure when it would take effect.

"We have no targeted movements or measures, and we are waiting for the formal announcement," a salesman of the company said.

Beijing Ziguangye, part of Sichuan-based Wuliangye Yibin, one of the top Chinese distillers, said prices of high-end spirits like Maotai and Wuliangye have been increasing since last month. Distillers remain cautious about the tax increase.

Small dealers, such as the Beijing United Liquor Company said they had not heard about the regulation and had not received any notice.

Supermarkets in Wuhan, Hubei Province, reported having received oral notice that the liquor price would rise next month, and some companies said they were starting to discuss solutions.

This April, the State Administration of Taxation released regulations about strengthening the taxes, and one of the items specified was the excise tax on liquor.

Insiders say any tax increase will cause a spike in the cost of top-class spirits. Since the global financial turmoil has left many consumers sensitive to price fluctuation, mid-grade spirit sales are also expected to take a hit.

The adjustment of the tobacco excise that started last month has had no obvious effect on cigarette sales. All markets and dealers are continuing to post old prices.

Some critics said adjustment of the liquor and tobacco excise had different purposes. Tobacco excise is thought to control cigarette consumption, but both taxes dramatically improve the national tax revenue, which has been down since last year.

People have called for non-tax measures such as banning smoking in public places to cut down on the number of smokers.

Mao Zhengzhong, professor at the College of Public Health of Sichuan University, said the policy was enacted mainly to increase tax revenue, not just to curb smoking.

Fire safety exercise marks anniversary



For the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the fire department of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau began a series of fire safety activities to safeguard cultural relics and ancient buildings.

Firefighters in Dongcheng District held a combat exercise in Gulou, the drum tower, to gain familiarity with firefighting in ancient structures on Wednesday.

(By Jin Zhu)

Gov to amend state secrets law, avoid Internet leakage

The top legislature Monday reviewed for the first time a draft revision to the Law on Guarding State Secrets, underlining the severing of Internet or other public network access to confidential information.

The draft revision was submitted to the ninth session of the Standing Committee of the 11th National People's Congress (NPC) for deliberation. It was discussed and passed in April at an executive meeting of the State Council, the Cabinet.

Xia Yong, head of the National Administration for the Protection of State Secrets (NAPSS), said parts of the existing secrets law had become obsolete.

The current law took effect on May 1, 1989.

"New situations and problems have emerged in guarding state secrets as the country's social and economic development advances rapidly, especially with the introduction and development of information technology and the application of e-government."

The materials to preserve and handle state secrets have changed from paper to acoustic, optical, electronic and magnetic forms, which created the need for corresponding policies, according to the official.

An investigation by the NPC found that 70 percent of all state secret leaks occurred on the Internet.

The revision covers issues including technical measures to protect networks where secret information is stored and fire-walling from public connections computers or other storage devices containing secret information.

According to the draft revision, computers and storage devices containing confidential information will not be allowed to be connected to the Internet and other public network services.

In cases where no protective measures were adopted, confidential information would be banned from being transmitted through wired and wireless communications, Internet and other public information network services.

Some economic and social organizations' involvement with secrets and the mobility of personnel with access to classified information had increased the difficulty of guarding state secrets and called for improved management measures, Xia said.

The law revision would minimize the number of people having access to state secrets and set up more scientific secret recognition, rating and termination procedures amid efforts to improve efficiency.

Statistics show the US generates about 100,000 classified documents annually, while China generates several million.

According to the existing law on guarding state secrets, state secrets refer to classified information concerning major policies and decisions of state affairs, national defense and activities of the armed forces, diplomatic activities, national economic and social development, science and technology, activities to safeguard state security and the investigation of crimes, and other items that are classified as state secrets by the state secret protection departments.

In 2004, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs declassified diplomatic documents compiled after the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, a pioneering move among government agencies.

In 2005, at a press conference jointly held by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and NAPSS, it was announced that death tolls in natural disasters and related information were no longer considered as state secrets.

Besides the draft revision to the Law on Guarding State Secrets, lawmakers will finish the discussion of a draft revision to the Law on Statistics, the amendments to the Law on State Compensation, and legislation on diplomatic agents and island protection during the NPC meeting, which runs from June 22 to 27.

(Xinhua)

Church seeks tenant for 'haunted houses'

By Venus Lee

The Beijing Catholic diocese is seeking tenants for the capital's two most famous ghost houses.

The two dilapidated three-story buildings at 81 Chaoyangmen Nei Dajie belong to the Beijing Catholic diocese. Stories circulating on the Internet about the buildings have propelled them to the top of the list of the capital's haunted houses.

In one version of the story, the hauntings began with a woman's suicide. The buildings were given to the Anglican Church by the Qing Dynasty and were later occupied by a Kuomintang officer. The para-

normal cries and sounds of glass shattering began when his concubine hanged herself.

Other rumors claim a team of decorators vanished while working in the building, and that an urban explorer perished there two years ago. Wilder stories claim the buildings and their environs have a lower temperature than neighboring structures.

The Beijing Catholic diocese and Dongcheng Police rejected the stories. "No one has been reported missing or dead there. Homeless people moved in during the years the building sat vacant, and their

lights are the origin of most of these stories," Shen Zhenyu, a policeman stationed nearby on Chaoyangmen, said.

Shi Hongxi, secretary-general of the diocese, said the buildings were built by an American missionary in 1910 and used as a language training center under the name of North China Concord Language School. In 1930, the school was renamed California College and used to train diplomats, scholars and businessmen after missionary support vanished. The late China expert John King Fairbank studied there in 1932.

The buildings came under government control in 1949, and were offloaded onto the diocese in the late 1990s.

They are named on the Protection List for Beijing's Excellent Architecture, so they can only be repaired—never demolished. But repairs are expensive, and the diocese would prefer to find a tenant willing to bear the 10-million-yuan fees, Shi said.

Shi said a bank which he could not name has expressed interest in acquiring the building for office use. Interested parties can phone the diocese at 66024812.

Court says pro counterfeit buyers normal consumers

By Zhang Dongya

The Shijingshan court became the country's first to lay down a public decision that professional counterfeit buyers are to be treated as consumers in all cases involving fraud, the *Beijing Youth Daily* reported Tuesday.

Article 49 of the consumer protection law of 1994 allowed victimized consumers to seek compensation from the business that defrauded them. Compensation is pegged to the price of the commodity purchased or the fee for the service paid by the consumer.

In 1997, people began to take advantage of the law to make a living by purposefully buying counterfeit goods. The first defense of many counterfeit sellers was to assert that these professional buyers did not fit the legal definition of "consumer."

Many counterfeit buyers dropped their suits and found work as agents or consultants aiding legitimate consumers in their claims.

"It is a different move for the Shijingshan court to write such regulations. Though treating professional counterfeit buyers as consumers has long been the norm for many courts, none came forward to formalize it," Huang Bin, a lawyer with the Shanghai Baiquan Law Firm, said.

The regulation applies only to cases heard by the Shijingshan court, where the bulk of hearings involve consumers' rights claims. The number of claims doubled every year since 2006, and professional as professional counterfeit buyers brought the charges in 60 percent of these cases, judge Lu Zhu, of the Shijingshan court, said.

Prior to the new decree, these professionals' legal status was ambiguous. The consumer rights law defined a "consumer" as one who purchases or uses commodities or receives services for daily use. This disqualified professionals, whose motives were obviously commercial.

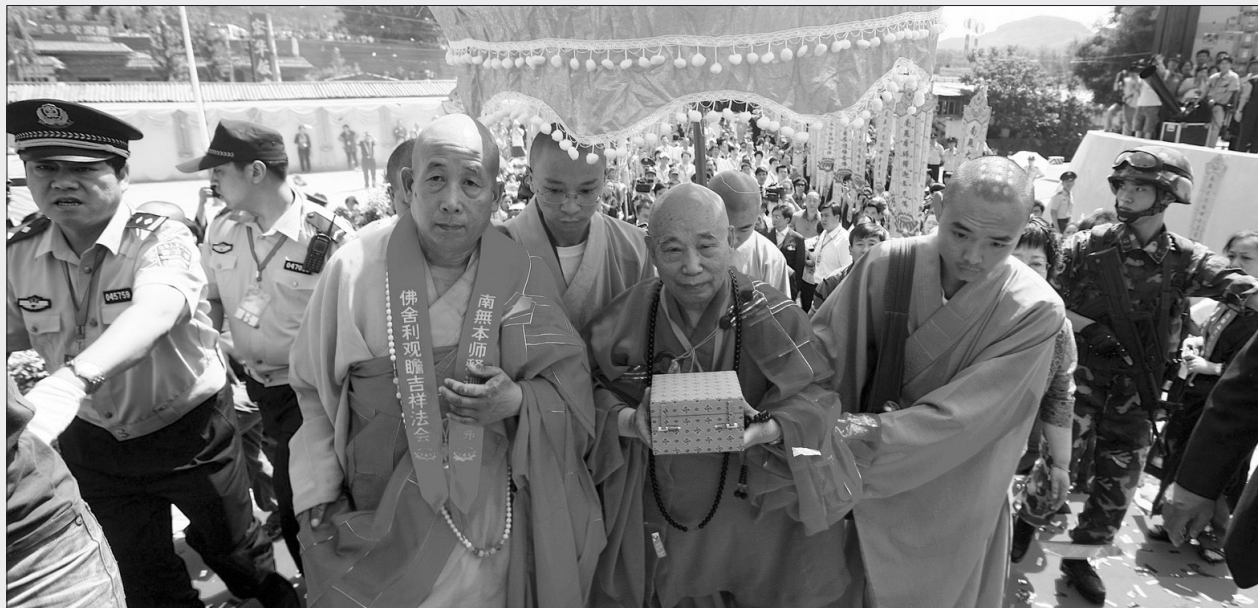
Yang Liandi, 53, quit his job in 1997 to buy counterfeit goods. Yang said that at the time, it was considered a positive signal to fight for consumer rights.

But with Yang came a sea of opportunists, the first and most well-known of whom was Wang Hai, 36, who first purchased counterfeit products in Beijing in 1995 and earned 8,000 yuan in compensation within two months.

"When we buy something we know to be fake, it's partly for the challenge of proving it," Yang said. "The real professionals are getting greedy, and many are just in it looking for easy money."

"The law protects legal interests. Professionals who are trying to do something illegal cannot expect to be protected," the lawyer Huang said.

Buddha body relics returned to Beijing temple



Two relics said to be from the body of Sakyamuni, founder of Buddhism, were returned Tuesday to the Beijing Yunju Temple, where they were first found. A hundred monks and 400 Buddhists welcomed their return from an underground store room at the Capital Museum. The relics will be on exhibit until July 2 in the biggest hall of the temple, built in Sui Dynasty (581-618).

The corn-shaped red Buddha body relics, discovered in the Lei Yin Cave of the temple on November 27, 1981, are revered as one of the country's "three precious" sets of relics. The others are Buddha teeth from Beijing's Lingguang Monastery and Buddha figure relics from the Famen Temple in Xi'an. Buddha relics are the remains of Sakyamuni Buddha, founder of Buddhism, who legend says left behind bones and 84,000 pearl-shaped relics. (By Han Manman)

CFP Photo

Traditional Medicine masters honored with new title, task Chinese Medicine heritage

By Jin Zhu

Thirty herbal doctors were granted the title Traditional Chinese Medicine Master by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, the Ministry of Health and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Beijing on June 19.

It was the first time the government honored traditional medicine doctors at the state level for their contributions in passing on medical heritage.

Ethical, herbal doctors with great academic achievements and at least 55 years of experience working in Chinese medicine were eligible for the top honor.

The 30 masters, chosen from 370,000 registered herbal doctors, are mostly professors at colleges or universities of Chinese medicine and are 74 to 93 years old.

The organizations to which the 30 doctors belong will establish Master Laboratories for Chinese medicine and provide the doctors with assistants and students for their future medical treatment and research.

According to statistics from the China Academy of Chinese Medicine Science, more than 200 million patients in China visit hospitals for traditional medicine every year.

"I believed the practice of Chi-

nese medicine has more advantages in disease treatment and health care than other medical systems. However, the current number of masters is so limited that few people can benefit," Li Chunyan, an editor in Beijing who sees doctors for herbal medicine, said.

However, since most of the named masters are over 80 years old, many wonder whether they can still devote themselves to clinical treatment.

"Having over 55 years of experience in the field deserves respect, but I wonder if these masters can continue to work in their aged condition," Li said.

"To be a master of Chinese medicine requires years of knowledge and clinical experience. The government prefers to honor experienced herbal medicine doctors, especially those who have dedicated their lives to Chinese medicine. That's why 55 years of experience was a criterion for selection," Ouyang Bo, staff member at the Information Office in the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, said.

The government will name new Traditional Chinese Medicine Masters every five years, and more experienced, younger doctors may be named in the future, she said.

Soul in the wrong body

Gov's new rules change the fate of transsexuals

A hidden group

When Liu Jingjing (pseudonym) was waiting for her groom in a white wedding gown, she looked no different from many happy brides who were tying the knot over the May holiday. Except inside, she could not have been more different: five years ago, she was a man.

Hundreds of local residents watched with a mix of curiosity and disbelief as the 27-year-old bride and her groom Yang Ziteng (pseudonym) wed in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province.

"It feels great to be a woman," Liu, now a fashion model, said. That day she received blessings both from people she knew and people she did not.

But Liu's road to womanhood was never easy, even though she knew from her earliest memories she was supposed to be a woman.

After Liu's birth Harbin, Heilongjiang Province, she was treated as the girl in the family. "I had two elder brothers and my parents really wanted a daughter that time," she said. Liu was brought up as a timid, self-conscious boy who kept her hair long and liked to wear nice dresses.

At the age of three, Liu's mind was thrown into a conflict many never experience until puberty. She felt a strong conflict between her physiological and psychological gender. Strongly believing she was a girl, Liu said by age 10 she had settled on getting a sex change.

But the woman-at-heart never talked about that inner conflict with her family: she was afraid of being treated weird. She fell into depression and constantly wanted to hurt herself.

At the end of 2002, Liu left her hometown to settle in Shenzhen, where she fell in love with Yang, now her husband.

With Yang's support, Liu began to seek gender reassignment surgery in March 2004, and obtained a new identity card as a female. The same year, Liu found fame when she attended the country's first Miss Plastic Surgery pageant, which opened the door for her modeling career.

Liu's case may be exceptional among transsexuals. A recent report said nearly 2,000 people on the mainland have had a sex change. But while attitudes toward sex have become increasingly relaxed in China – especially in the big cities – the country remains conservative about sexual identity.

Most transsexuals live under constant pressure, the report said.

New rules on sex change

Liu said she attributed her happiness to the mutual love and trust between her and her husband. But she missed one key point: the support and understanding of society – which in China is unlikely without a push from the government.

Last Tuesday, the Ministry of Health released its newest draft plan for public criticism: "Technical Management Standards for Transsexual Operations." Experts

By Huang Daohen

Sometimes, a soul ends up in the wrong body.

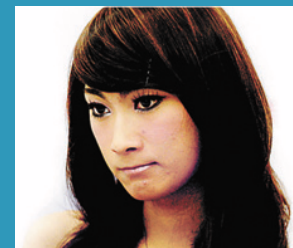
That's how Zhang Kesha, the country's first transsexual, explains her experience of living from birth to adulthood in a man's body.

But the trials Zhang saw may no longer be mandatory for life as a Chinese transsexual. On June 16, the Ministry of Health unveiled the country's first laws on sexual reassignment surgery to guide transsexuals and doctors through the very complex process.



Zhang Kesha, China's first transsexual, says she was a woman trapped in a man's body.

CFP Photos



Tian Luner, known as China's Harisu after the transsexual Korean model, is the latest transsexual in the spotlight.

might consider a sex change remain largely concealed in mainstream society. It's hard for them to live and work openly in the gender they want," Qiu was quoted by the *Beijing News* as saying.

"As long as a person meets the primary physical and psychological requirements, she or he should be granted permission to have the surgery," he said. "The police should be willing to change the sex of the patient on his or her identity card accordingly."

He did, however, acknowledge the validity of the requirement that they have no criminal record, citing public security.

Surgery not always best

It is difficult to estimate the size of the transgender population. The annual census does not record this data, and neither does any other organization – at least, officially. But incomplete statistics suggest China has as many as 400,000 transsexuals, 2,000 of whom have realized their dream.

"The candidates' decision to live their life [as they believe they should] represents an important step forward," He Qinglian, a veteran doctor of plastic surgery with the Shanghai 411 Hospital, said. "Coming out as a transsexual is an extremely personal decision, and one that is never made lightly."

Many transsexuals say their bodies have always felt wrong, and that they have been uncomfortable in their skin since they were children, He said.

"This is especially true in the case of intersex children, who are born with both male and female sex organs," he said.

He, crowned as "the savior of Chinese transsexuals," said a sex-change operation is the only way to save a transsexual's life, "because neither medical nor psychological therapies can help them. Ninety percent of transsexuals are likely to commit suicide when their request for a sex change is rejected," He said.

However, He said all candidates for the operation should think carefully. "The operation is more than a medical procedure due to its huge social and legal consequences."

He mentioned some cases where candidates requesting a sex change had hated their new role in the end.

"If [the wrong] person had the surgery, it would be a life-altering disaster," He said. "The surgery should be a last resort for people struggling with their

said the proposed rules show the government is becoming aware of this largely hidden group.

Under the new rules, only hospitals with 10 or more years of cosmetic surgery experience will be allowed to perform sex reassignment surgery.

Every such hospital will be required to assemble a technical and ethics committee of experts in physiology, law and ethics. The committee is responsible for analyzing potential candidates and giving the final nod.

Doctors qualified to perform the surgery must be licensed and have 10 or more years of experience in cosmetic surgery, five years of which must have been in transsexual operations. They are also required to have independently completed 10 sexual organ

reconstructions before performing a full-scale operation.

The move indicates a plugging of the regulatory gap in transsexual surgery, Liu said.

She said there were a few qualified hospitals in 2004 when she decided to undergo surgery, which usually costs 100,000 to 150,000 yuan.

"Some technically inadequate hospitals were looking to penetrate the market, which caused malpractice battles," she said, "But the new regulations would disqualify these institutions."

Burden of proof

But the government's regulations have drawn fire for their incredibly narrow definition of a sex-change candidate.

According to the new reg-

ulations, sex-change candidates must be single and over 20 years old with no criminal record, and they must be willing and able to have their gender changed on their national ID by the Public Security Bureau.

They are given the burden of proving their consistent desire for a sex change, and are required to have lived full-time as the opposite sex for five consecutive years and to have attempted one year of psychological therapy.

Qiu Renzong, bioethicist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the last requirement is especially inappropriate. He also disagreed with the clause that the candidate must live for at least five consecutive years in the new gender role.

"Chinese Transsexuals who

Report corruption, collect commission

Who says crime doesn't pay?

Chinese authorities are encouraging more people to report cases of official malfeasance with a strong incentive: money.

People who report corruption will receive up to 10 percent of the funds recovered by the government, according to new national guidelines. Awards will generally be capped at 100,000 yuan, though with provincial approval the amount can be increased to 200,000 yuan.

The new measures also include commissions for reporting other crimes, including rights violations.

Officials vowed to protect the confidentiality of informants and impose criminal and civil penalties on retaliatory actions against informants.

Hunan Province has already introduced the new commission scheme, which in exceptional cases will allow central government leaders to approve unlimited monetary rewards for informants, the *People's Daily* reported on its Web site.

An official with the Hunan Province Procuratorate, which investigates and prosecutes cases on the government's behalf, said the department last year received over 5,300 corruption reports from the public, and that these became important starting points for investigations. In 2008, provincial authorities investigated 1,615 individuals for corruption and recovered 359 million yuan.

Nationwide, it appears the



The central government says China will show no mercy to corruption.

recent efforts to encourage corruption-reporting have worked a bit too well. Callers swamped a new anticorruption telephone hotline on its first day of operation, the *South China Morning Post* reported, while the corresponding Web site 12309.gov.cn was often unavailable, presumably due to the flood of traffic to the site.

(Wall Street Journal)

Expert View

China will show no mercy to corruption, but the situation remains grave, the state's top prosecutor said in a report.

Jia Chunwang, procurator-general of the Supreme People's Procuratorate, said this year, prosecutors will focus on cases involving high-ranking officials and big sums of money.

Statistics in the past five years show that 35 officials at the provincial or ministerial level, 930 at the municipal level and nearly 14,000 at or above the county level were investigated for embezzlement, bribery and misappropriation of public funds.

Mu Ping, head of the People's Procuratorate of Beijing, said major corruption cases that occurred in the capital involved more illicit money over the past three years than ever before.

Along with economic development, new forms of corruption have emerged. But with public bidding and an "expert evaluation system" introduced in those fields, corruption could be further reduced, Mu said. (By Huang Daohen)

Survey: Corruption threatens economic edge

Corruption may erode China's economic competitiveness by wiping away the country's low-cost advantage, a recent report by the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) said.

The annual report surveyed 1,400 expats who were asked to grade corruption in Asia and the extent to which it would affect a country's business environment.

The Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and China were ranked the most corrupt, while Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan were viewed as the least corrupt.

PERC said the cost of maintaining standards and the high levels of corruption are eroding the low-cost advantages of the fast growing economies of India, China and Vietnam.

"Corruption is yet another cost,"

the organization said in its report. "If governments do not reduce it, the competitiveness of the environments will be eroded that much faster." On a scale of 10, with zero being the least corrupt and 10 being the most corrupt, the Philippines scored 9.0, China scored 7.98, Vietnam scored 7.75 and India 7.25. Singapore scored 1.13 in the survey carried out between January and February this year. (Agencies)

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shenzhen: 4f, no.33, 5th wenxin road, coastal city, nanshan district

By Zhao Hongyi

The China Development & Reform Commission joined eight other commissions and ministries on June 16 in calling on the government to emphasize domestic products and services in its procurement under the 4-trillion-yuan financial stimulus package issued last November.

Local businesses complained that much of the stimulus money has gone into foreign pockets, while foreign firms complain that the government is implementing discriminative policies to exclude foreign businesses from China's economic development.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said the order adhered to the law on procurement passed in 2002. "The new policy is aimed at maintaining a fair market environment for competition, which is in line with China's law on government procurement," Qin said Sunday.



The "Buy China" policy was considered by many as a new round of protectionism. CFP Photos

Buy China?

Only a request to consider 'Made in China'

Stimulus package starts 'Buy China' scare

Last November, the central government issued a stimulus package to combat the global recession's effects on the domestic export-driven industry. Statistics collected by the Ministry of Commerce showed exports fell 40 percent in the first quarter of the year.

The central government, in an attempt to slow the collapse, issued a stimulus package for each province and asked how the money should be used to improve infrastructure, increase production assets, assist research and marketing and aid the poor and elderly.

Each province has sent delegations to Beijing with project lists since last November.

But a lack of supervision in how that stimulus money is spent has been a key issue with the Chinese media. Some media groups have appealed for a list of the projects submitted to the central government under the Government Information Disclosure Law.

"It's necessary for society to see these projects and their implementation to avoid corruption and misuse," *Chinese Economy Weekly* said.

To import or buy domestic?

Imports have been the most desirable products in China for decades, even though Chinese-made goods have improved dramatically. On many government procurement lists, imports have

taken the lion's share of the funds since 1978, whether they are tiny gifts like stationery or vehicles, steel and asphalt.

"In China, the government wields immense power and influence over market consumption and investment," Lu Renqi, vice chairman of China Machinery Industrial Confederation, said. "It's important for China's machinery industry that [the government] emphasize our native industry and products."

The central government issued several notices to remind officials to invite more native manufacturers to bid on procurements, citing the Government Procurement Law. The law specifies that procurement must emphasize Chinese products and services.

"It is a normal practice throughout the world," Wang Xiaoguang, president of *Chinese Government Procurement Magazine*, told *Chinese Economy*.

"Look at what the US Congress said when it gave capital injections to its giant companies entering bankruptcy protection."

But the decade-old buying trend seems hard to reverse. This month, reports appeared that BMW is appearing on the list of government purchases alongside Volkswagen and Audi. The list is created and constantly amended by the central government.

"It's very ironic, especially since the domestic automobile industry is finally seeing some degree of sophistication," *Chinese Economy* said.

A week later, the procurement department of the central government revealed its in-house procurement list, saying it did not list BMW: in its place were dozens of joint-venture products like Honda, Nissan, Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz and GM. The department said it reminded its affiliates to focus on native brands like Chery, Chunghwa and Hongqi.

Two days later, the department clarified that its list only indicates that listed companies only have the right to be purchased: the head of the department said there is no intent to purchase from BMW and Mercedes-Benz, including their cars produced through joint ventures.

Disagreement on WTO rules

The conflict began with Jorg Wuttke, president of the European Union's Chamber of Commerce in China, in late May when a number of European manufacturers failed to get a bid for wind turbine generators worth about US \$7 billion (48 billion yuan).

"It seems the Chinese government wants to exclude foreign manufacturers from its 4-trillion-yuan economic stimulus package," Wuttke said.

He complained that the government was focusing more on the price of products than on their function, durability and potential revenue.

Li Pumin, the spokesman for the China Development & Reform Commission spurned Wuttke's comments this month when he said the government has no pol-



Made-in-China goods are popular world over for their low price.

icies to discriminate against foreign products and services.

"Instead, China has long been accepting foreign products, and the appeal issued earlier this month to buy Chinese balances out the momentum and opens the door for native manufacturers," Li said.

"We are appealing to get more attention for native products and services," Wu Kairong, from the Ministry of Commerce, told China National Radio. "We did not prevent the purchase of foreign products and services, so there is no conflict with WTO rules."

Buying Chinese supports local R&D

Many have called on the government to spend more of the 4-trillion-yuan package on science and technology research and innovation, which is believed to be important to the national

economy in the long run.

For example, nearly all the LCD screens used in Chinese TV manufacture come from Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. About 70 percent of the integrated circuits to drive the screens come from the US. Chinese manufacturers only profit on assembly.

In infrastructure construction, while iron and steel are sourced from Chinese manufacturers, there is little research in securing new ore supplies.

Many voices online have suggested pouring more money into electric vehicle development, IC research and resources security, because foreign technology is too protected and isolated.

"In the long run, we hope there will be no difference between foreign and native products," the *Chinese Government Procurement Magazine* said. "We believe the day will come, sooner or later."

One-dog policy has pet owners worried

By Han Manman

Beginning next month, each Guangzhou household will be allowed only one pet dog. And people who currently have multiple dogs will have to decide which one stays – and which will go.

Officials have refused to talk to the media about the controversial “one-dog” policy, but the regulation appears to be part of an effort to control the population of stray dogs in the city, one of the country’s richest and with a rapidly growing middle class that can afford more than one pet per family.

While many residents support the policy as a way to maintain peace and order, some dog owners find it a bitter pill to swallow. Others worry about problems that would eventually crop up once the directive is enforced.

Voice

Dog owners: a painful policy

It's a cruel regulation. I have three dogs; they are like family members. Since my son moved to America years ago, I've treated my dogs like my children. How can I keep one and get rid of the others?

– Zhang Yingfang, retiree

I don't know how strictly the one-dog policy will be enforced, but I'll find a way to get around it. I plan to send one of my dogs to my parents' house and ask them to keep the dog for a while. If the regulation isn't strictly enforced, I'll take my dog back.

– Bai Jing, office worker

Animal activist: stray dog population may explode

The government's latest move has raised worries among animal-rights activists that there might be a huge increase in the city's number of stray dogs.

Before March, we would receive only a few calls a month from dog owners who wanted to give up pets. But recently, we've gotten upwards of 10 calls a day. I'm afraid there will be more stray dogs than ever when the policy goes into effect.

– Mao Mao, founder of

Guangzhou stray dogs shelter
Family of the Pet

Police: no time for dog issue

Guangzhou's Public Security Bureau said measures on how to carry out the regulation are still under discussion but will soon be announced. Some police stations however said the policy will be difficult to enforce.

To implement the new regulation, we need to dispatch many police officers to houses and check dog numbers. But Guangzhou has a huge people to police ratio and our force is already stretched. It's hard enough to deal with people's issues; how can we cope with the dogs too.

– Guangzhou police officer who refused to be identified



Only one allowed? But which should go? Guangdong's one-dog policy worries pet owners. CFP Photo

Expert view

Many ways better than control the number

Sources say the new policy was created because the streets of Guangzhou are being overrun by stray dogs and the government is concerned that diseases such as rabies will spread to humans as the city prepares for next year's Asian Games.

Experts have their own opinion.

The last rabies outbreak occurred because people did not have their dogs vaccinated. Laws and regulations require people to vaccinate and register their

dogs and to send them for annual health checks, but these are loosely enforced, especially in rural areas.

– Sun Jiang, professor at Northwest University of Political Science and Law

Beijing can serve as a good example for Guangzhou; the capital has realized there are effective non-confrontational ways to solve the problem of overpopulation, instead of by enforcing draconian policies of confis-

cating pets. Recently, the city (Guangzhou) has been working with veterinarian associations on campaigns to spay and neuter animals. Getting dogs fixed is key to controlling their population. Also important is regulating dog breeders and keeping fees for dog tags and vaccines affordable so people will register their animals.

– Grace Ge Gabriel, Asia regional director for the International Fund for Animal Welfare

Background

Dog overpopulation is a national problem

Guangzhou's one-dog policy is not new to China. It has previously been implemented in other cities, including Beijing, to help combat rabies outbreaks.

In 2006, Beijing authorities caught 29,000 unregistered dogs the first month the regulation went into effect – a campaign that sparked public

anger and protests.

Today, the capital has adopted a new approach to pet overpopulation, such as policies to have animals spayed and neutered.

Debate of the week

Who profits from Google's misfortune?

China Central Television (CCTV) blasted Google's Chinese portal on June 16 for inadvertently displaying pornographic links, and Chinese authorities the next day suspended Google's Chinese-language overseas search services. It is the biggest crisis the US search engine has faced in the country and will certainly affect the Chinese government's confidence in Google and restrict its future expansion.

It was the China Internet Illegal Information Report Center that condemned Google. Three major CCTV programs – News Broadcast, Focus Report and News 1+1 – carried the story to millions of TV viewers.

Google China immediately made a public apology and took measures last Tuesday evening to clean up its site. But the next day, Xinhua news agency reported its suspension.

There are suspicions the blaring criticism of Google's pornographic links may be serving purposes other than merely clearing the cyberspace of porn.

Analysts note a possible connection to Green Dam, the pornography-filtering software promoted by the Chinese government. All computers sold domestically after July 1 will be required to install the software. Computer-users are voicing strong opposition as they are concerned about privacy and monitoring of Internet records. Netizens have found security vulnerabilities in the software, and the media are curious about how two obscure companies responsible for the software acquired access to government procurement.

Another possibility concerns Google's Chinese competitors such as Baidu. The competition between Baidu and Google is fierce, especially after Baidu's marketing staff went on strike. The two companies have been in conflict over other matters, with Baidu using its Chinese connections to get the upper hand.

Yet another finger points to CCTV. After Baidu was exposed by the network for carrying illegal medical advertisements, it bought extensive ad airtime on CCTV. The network's broadcasting of several programs to criticize Google and its exaggeration of the Internet Illegal Information Report Center's condemnation were seen as rare events.

Google has many fans in the country willing to defend it. One college student seen criticizing Google on a TV program has been identified by netizens as a CCTV intern, not an independent user.

(By Niu Zhijing, critic in Shanghai)

American cell phone expert explores Shanzhai phenomenon



Karl Weaver and Scully Meng studied the Shanzhai or Robin Hood phenomenon for five months.

Photo provided by Scully Meng

By Wang Yu

The prevalence of Chinese pirated goods – called the Shanzhai or Robin Hood phenomenon – took center stage last year. Every imaginable foreign brand was imitated, from cell phones to cafe chains. Critics and foreign companies saw the trend as a reflection of local manufacturers' lack of creativity and confidence.

But Karl J. Weaver, head of US-based Newport Technologies, only partially agrees with the assessment. He said electronic knock-offs also share the same spirit of innovation that spurred some people to achieve the American Dream in Silicon Valley.

Together with Scully Meng, an editorial assistant at British non-government organization China Dialogue, Weaver studied the Shanzhai phenomenon for five months. He has since presented his findings to various industry professionals.

Weaver and Meng met on a bus a year ago as they were rushing to work. "I soon found out that Scully is a very interesting and open-minded person. As a journalist, she also has the experience of working with people from different cultural backgrounds which gave her a cultural insight on the Shanzhai phenomenon. Then we decided to do the research together," Weaver said.

Weaver, a native of Quincy, Massachusetts, is a mobile device executive who has worked in Taiwan and speaks Chinese. After finishing his

bachelor's degree in 1982, he received a three-year scholarship to study Chinese at the National Taiwan Normal University.

For seven years until 1992, he worked in Taiwan's microcomputer manufacturing industry as an export sales manager. "I never left the industry, so I consider it my business to see what's going on and to understand how the Shanzhai phenomenon happened," Weaver said.

He visited digital markets around the country and surveyed imitation cell phone models. His inquiry brought him back to Shenzhen, the heart of the cell phone industry and the base of pirates.

"I visited the city many times for my company and ... talked with many people in the Robin Hood cell phone business, which was how I found out about what they're doing and how they work," Weaver said.

According to the results of his team's study, these people have a spirit of defiance and a no-nonsense attitude to making money. "I don't always trust them yet it is interesting to ask them about how certain handsets perform. Even when I tell them I'm only doing research, they're still interested to know why."

A Robin Hood cell phone may combine the capabilities of a phone and a shaver – far beyond the designs of industry giants and fulfills consumers' wild expectations, Meng said.

“Not only cell phones, I think the whole Shanzhai phenomenon is a game culture. Western culture has made a great impact on China's young people who use new technology to challenge the authorities and mock mainstream culture.”

However, creativity, cannot cover up how some manufacturers are engaged in illegal operations. Though the cheap chips made by the Taiwan company MTK help the native manufacturers to cut their cost, some Robin Hood cell phones incorporate Bluetooth, which is patented and requires the payment of royalties.

"This is definitely illegal. Those who make Robin Hood cell phones can be divided into two groups: The first one is doing it for short-term profit and will withdraw from the market as soon as they've earned enough money," Weaver said.

"The other group I call 'hacker-entrepreneurs.' Some of them moved from Silicon Valley to continue their business here. It's just the first step in their plans. Who can tell if one will be the next Steve Jobs of China?" he said.



Kim Taewoo

Photo provided by Tim Taewoo

S. Korean teen gets into top 2 universities

By Venus Lee

An 18-year-old South Korean became the first foreigner to be accepted by the country's top two universities after he changed his mind about his first choice.

Kim Taewoo, who has been in school in the country for the past nine years, was admitted at Peking University this summer. He declined the offer because he did not want to pursue the program at its Guanghua School of Management.

He then took Tsinghua University's entrance exam, received an offer of admission and got a partial scholarship.

"As far as examination performance is concerned, I was not the best among the foreign students. But I guess the university valued my knowledge of Chinese culture and my overall achievements," said Kim, a fan of classical Chinese literature and who fluently speaks Nanjing dialect.

The young man said he never considered going to South Korea for college. "I've been studying in China for nine years and have adapted to the Chinese education system," he said.

Kim began reading classical Chinese works when he was in third grade. "I've read *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* more than 50 times. I love the characters in *Three Kingdoms*. I particularly admire Zhuge Liang's wisdom and Sima Yi's modesty. Their strategies are brilliant. The book tells how to be a real man," the teenager said.

His new favorites include Sinology books and *shiji*, or Historical Records of China. "By reading these books, I can better understand Chinese culture," Kim said.

His Chinese-language skills are near-native. In sixth grade, he scored 8 of a possible 11 on the HSK, the Chinese Proficiency Test for foreigners. Two years later, he reached his goal of 11.

Kim credits his achievements to his family, whom he said has deep ties with China. His great-grandfather once did business in the northeast. In the 1980s, his father came to the country to do business following China's economic reforms during that decade. In 2000, Kim himself moved to Nanjing from South Korea.

After almost a decade in the southern city, Kim says Nanjing life has seeped into his veins. He said he loves Nanjing snacks such as duck blood and bean vermicelli soup. He is also a fan of pop star Jay Chou.

"I love Jay's song very much because his lyrics are very poetic and full of cultural references. I love his 'Chrysanthemum Flower Bed' the most," he said.

As for university life, the young man said he is looking forward to meeting brilliant Chinese students. "And probably find a Chinese girlfriend," he added with a laugh.

After graduating from Tsinghua, Kim said he has to return to South Korea to serve in the army. Then he plans to pursue graduate studies in the US. But Kim says he wants to establish himself in China. "With the country's increasing prosperity, there is great potential for a career here, so I'm bound to come back," he said.

Iranian president to be sworn in despite protests



Supporters of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad took to the streets to celebrate his re-election after the Interior Ministry announced he had won the June 12 vote. CFP Photo

By Jin Zhu

Iran's president will be sworn into office between July 26 and August 19, the state news agency IRNA has reported.

Iran's Guardian Council, tasked with supervising elections in the country, announced Tuesday there is no possibility of an annulment of the result of the June 12 presidential poll that gave President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad another four-year term.

The statement came a day after the council said there had been voting irregularities in 50 districts, including local vote counts that exceeded the number of eligible voters. But it said the discrepancies were not big enough to affect the election's outcome.

The council found "no major fraud or breach in the election," its spokesman Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei was quoted by IRNA as saying.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had already declared Ahmadinejad the winner and ordered protesters off the streets.

On June 15, a huge demonstration in the capital Tehran called for a vote recount or an election rerun, a few days after the Interior Ministry announced that Ahmadinejad received 62 percents of the votes.

Iran's ambassador to China, Javad Mansouri, said that although the protests were the fiercest and most prolonged the country has seen in 30 years, he was not surprised at the development.

"Since Iran is a free country, in which different parties can voice their opinions, every citizen has the right to support or protest the election result. This is due to the tense atmosphere and fierce competition among the candidates in this election," he said.

"However, no matter how different the opinions of supporters and protesters may be, it is proper to solve problems in a peace-



Many Iranian nationals in Beijing cast their vote at their embassy. Photo by Jin Zhu

ful and lawful way," Mansouri said.

The embassy in Beijing was one of Iran's 300 overseas absentee polling stations in 130 countries. After nationals cast their votes on June 12, the ballots were sent to Tehran for counting.

"Most Iranian nationals in China participated in the voting, even visitors," the ambassador said.

One of the voters, Raheleh, a female student at Beihang University said, "Although I'm not in Iran, I'm still very concerned about the election and believe I should vote for my favorite candidate."

Mansouri said Ahmadinejad's leadership has spurred economic development in Iran. "I believe he was the president who had the most contact with the public by visiting many places and regions and helping solve their

problems, and that is why he enjoys the people's ardent support," he said.

Employment, housing, education and health care are some of the Iranian government's most pressing problems – the same issues faced by countries such as China, Mansouri said. "Besides that, young people are concerned about marriage and whether they can improve their lives," he said.

But no matter who the Iranian president is, healthy relations between the Islamic republic and China will remain the government's policy, the ambassador said.

"For Iran, China is a very important and friendly country, and the Iranian public thinks the same thing. Over the last 30 years, the two countries have closely cooperated in many fields. Extending this relationship is our outlook for the future," he said.



Song Jing

Photo by Venus Lee

UN refugee agency celebrates 30 years in China

By Venus Lee

To mark World Refugee Day along with its 30th year in China, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sponsored a week-long World Refugee Movie Festival.

The event showcased eight documentaries, including films about Sudanese and refugee. "On this occasion, we turn our attention to the millions of refugees who live without material, social and legal protection," Lam Naijit, senior regional protection officer of UNHCR Beijing, said at the movie festival's launch on Saturday, World Refugee Day.

UNHCR said the global economic crisis also introduced a new threat to refugees: further limitations on already overstretched aid budgets. "We need to ensure refugees and others of concern to UNHCR are not forgotten," Naijit said, explaining why this year's World Refugee Day was themed "real people, real need."

According to data from the UN agency, there were 42 million refugees worldwide as of December 2008. Among them, 49 percent were women and 44 percent were children. About 80 percent of refugees can be found in developing nations and countries such as Pakistan (1.8 million), Syria (1.1 million) and Iran (980,000).

UNHCR opened an office in Beijing in February 1980 to respond to the influx of Vietnamese refugees following the Sino-Vietnamese War from 1978 to 1979. In 1997, the office extended its coverage to the entire mainland, Hong Kong, Macau and Mongolia.

In the absence of national refugee laws, UNHCR is tasked with conducting Refugee Status Determination for asylum-seekers and finding a permanent home for refugees – mainly resettlement to a third country.

"Because there is no refugee legislation in China, urban refugees in China do not have legal status and therefore do not have access to employment, education or health care," Naijit said.

During their stay in the country, UNHCR provides refugees with accommodation, medical assistance and education or vocational training opportunities. The agency has also been giving the government technical assistance in drafting a national refugee law.

"We should understand that refugees are not a threat. They themselves are threatened and need help and protection. Refugees are just like you and your family, but they have lost their homes, jobs and community and possibly even family members and friends," Song Jing, the agency's China public information officer, said.

"Refugees, however, are not just victims. They have skills, enormous personal strength and resourcefulness. Many former refugees have become influential academics, artists, politicians and businessmen in their adopted countries."

Expats pass summer nights over stone board game



Go players meet on the rooftop of The Bookworm every Tuesday night.

Photo by Zheng Lu

By Zheng Lu

As the temperature continues to rise, people are coming up with creative ways to release excess energy. At sundown on Tuesdays, a group of foreigners head to the rooftop of The Bookworm, a bookshop-cum-restaurant in Sanlitun, to play Go, a one-on-one Chinese board game.

The object of the game is to control a larger portion of the board than the opponent using black or white stones. It has simple rules, complex moves and players are not required to exert themselves physically.

Some Go club members are professionals, others are students. Ernest French, the club's organizer, said about 10 people attend each week. Besides their Tuesday get-togethers, the club also conducts weekend activities in parks and gardens.

French, who moved here from the US three years ago, has been an avid Go player for more than 10 years. He learned the game from a Chinese teacher in the States who had won international Go competitions.

French took charge of the Beijing club six months ago when the former head moved back home. He tried to generate publicity about the club to attract more members. "I published information in some magazines and Web sites," he said.

On Tuesday night, nine people showed up at The Bookworm; most were Americans and the rest were Singaporeans and Swedes. Some people like Dan Ambrose discovered the club because of French's ads.

Ambrose, a doctorate student in physics, arrived in the capital only a month

ago but has been to several Go Club gatherings. The American learned to play Go from his friends three years ago. "Later I read books to learn more about playing Go," said Ambrose, who swept every game he played that evening, while advising weaker players.

The club has also become a social gathering as members routinely bring new people. One of the newcomers was Fang, a Beijinger who came with her Swedish friend Anton Blad. She was paired with a fellow Go newbie to help her get accustomed to its rules and strategy.

The atmosphere on the rooftop was relaxed and comfortable as the games progressed. People chatted with their opponents across the Go board. They talked about life back in their hometown, exchanged future plans and smiled and laughed a lot.

Event

Safety Scissors + Bigger Bang

Since relocating to Berlin, San Francisco's electro-pop outfit Safety Scissors has worked with the likes of Eireland Oye of Kings of Convenience and Stereo Total. Now, they're planning to shake the town with local rockers Bigger Bang and Shanshui's Sulumi and Rate.

Where: Yugong Yishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: June 25, 9 pm

Tel: 6404 2711

Cost: 30 yuan

The Beijing Green Train

Roots and Shoots' bicycle tour of Beijing departs from The Village and includes an after-party barbecue with drinks and a bike-trick show by the Beijing Fixed Gear Club.

Where: The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Jun 26, 7 am - 10 pm

Tel: 8569 0422

Cost: 50 yuan

Mini Mozart music class

The class presents a stimulating combination of Kodaly, Orff and Suzuki for three-year-olds. The children will explore various aspects of music using drums, glockenspiel and other props. While dancing to Tchaikovsky or Yanni, they will appreciate different eras of music. Prepare them for picking up an instrument later in life by recognizing pitches and rhythm all on a life-size floor board.

Where: Room 2606, Block 5 Li Shui Jia Yuan Apartments (opposite Chaoyang Park South Gate; between Park Avenue and Palm Springs), Chaoyang District

When: June 27, 10-10:45 am

Tel: 13522563767

UCCA art and yoga day

The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) and Yogi Yoga are holding an afternoon dedicated to art and yoga. Participants will get a private tour of UCCA and then a lecture from an artist and yoga master before starting on their hour of meditation.

Where: UCCA, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 27, 3-6 pm

Tel: 8610 8803

Cost: 360 yuan

(By Chen Zao)

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Seven Olympic venues offer fitness membership

By Chen Zao

The management of seven Olympic venues teamed up last week to form an alliance which will allow residents to use their facilities while needing only one membership card.

People can enjoy the first-class Shijingshan Gymnasium by signing up as a member at 600 yuan a year. This translates into 2 yuan per day.

The venue's facilities and equipment include stationary bicycles, elliptical trainers, treadmills, a yoga training room and a huge aerobics hall. It also has a National Physique Monitoring Center, to which members can go for free tests to evaluate their fitness level.

The gymnasium plans to host international kung fu tournaments. The Laoshan Velodrome Cycle Stadium at its center will be transformed into television studios.

Xu Chunsheng, director of the Shijingshan District Sport's Bureau, said the other venues have begun opening their doors to the public, and that the alliance will work to lower the cost of membership.

The group's ultimate goal is for



The Shijingshan Gymnasium is now open to the public.

Photo by Red Wei

members to be able to use all the Olympic venues in town, Xu said.

The Beijing Shooting Range Hall will welcome swimmers and badminton and ping-pong players. It aims to eventually incorporate within the building a theater and a shooting museum.

The Laoshan Mountain Bike

Course is planning to build a free theme park. It may also offer professional racing lessons and the service of coaches.

The Shougang Basketball Center Gymnasium will host the Chinese Basketball Association's (CBA) annual games, as well as offer facilities for bowling, tennis

and swimming.

The Beijing Shooting Range Clay Target Field hopes to become a venue for Laoshan Bicycle Motocross (BMX) races. With the cooperation of Laoshan Country Park, it plans to redo its landscape in order to become a setting for cultural activities.

Local league offers American Football camp

By Wang Yu

Primary school students have another option to combat boredom this summer: join an American Football training camp. Spartan Football League, which promotes the US sport among children, will hold its first summer camp next month.

The event, organized with the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education and the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Sports, aims to introduce American Football to young Beijingers.

"Unlike basketball, tennis, volleyball or other ball games that require hoops or nets, basic training for football can be done on any school playground, which makes it easier to get more students involved," Chen Zhen, the league's founder, said.

Chen discovered football only a few months ago but quickly became a fan. "At first, I just wanted my boy to learn more about tenacity, hard work and teamwork from a sport, then I got into football and soon became a fan. Although it looks like an easy sport - most people might think players just run and tackle - the truth is that football requires more than that and is ideal for our kids who lack exercise," he said.

Children's basic football training does not require the protective gear people see on professional players on TV, but to avoid injury, Chen has chosen to start with Flag Football.

"It's a version of American Football. The basic rules of the game are similar to those of the mainstream game, but instead of tackling players to the ground, the defensive team must remove a flag or flag belt from the ball carrier to end a down," he said.

To add more fun, Chen created a system that allows players to climb levels based on their accumulated game scores. Players will be given flags colored depending on their level, similar to taekwondo belts.

"We hope these rules will help the sport become more attractive to kids," Chen said.

The football camp will be held three times this summer: from July 2 to 12; July 15 to 25; and August 1 to 10. Each batch will have a maximum of a hundred students and welcomes both male and female players from ages eight to 14.

Each student will be charged 2,600 yuan, which includes insurance and accommodation shared with other participants. Most of the camp's trainers are university sport teachers or former national players. "Each one of them passed the NFL's training session in recent years," Chen said.

Spartan Football's office is located at 1-1908 Dongqiguojie, Chaoyang district. For more information, call 8591 6121.

Foreigners fined for illegal employment

By Zheng Lu

Foreigners who work in the country illegally may be fined up to 1,000 yuan and deported from China, the police reminded the public last week.

Last month, the Public Security Bureau's (PSB) Exit and Entry Administration received a tip saying a school in Dongcheng District employed foreign teachers who lacked permits. Investigation revealed that since March, the school has hired four foreigners who did not have the proper qualifications for the job as English teachers.

The PSB charged the school with "employing aliens without permission" and the foreigners with "seeking a job without permission." The bureau then fined the school 30,000 yuan and each of the foreigners 1,000 yuan, based on the implementing rules for the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Control of the Entry and Exit of Aliens.

The foreigners were detained. "Those who employ aliens without permission may be fined 5,000 to 50,000 yuan and ordered to cover repatriation expenses," a PSB officer surnamed Lin said.

The hiring process starts with an invitation letter from an employer who is qualified to recruit foreigners. With the letter, the hiree can apply for a "Z" or a work visa to enter China. Once the person arrives in the country, he or she needs to obtain approval from the State Bureau of Foreign Experts Affairs.

The person then needs to go for a health examination and then registers with the PSB in his or her locality. The last stop is the PSB's Exit and Entry Administration, where the person gets the Employment Permit and the Alien

Residence Permit.

"The Employment Permit is only valid for one job," said another PSB official, adding that once the employee changes jobs, he or she must apply for a new employment permit. She said some language schools may have additional requirements, such as a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certificate or pre-hiring training sessions.

The PSB said foreigners should be aware that in the case of disputes, an illegal worker cannot make any claims through official channels.

Spanish Language Day celebrated

By Zhao Hongyi

Hundreds of Chinese students celebrated El Dia del Español, or Spanish Language Day, on Saturday with music, dance and food.

Instituto Cervantes, which hosted the celebration, joined more than 70 other Spanish-language and culture centers in 43 countries to mark the occasion.

The Beijing center designed more than a dozen events to stimulate Spanish language learners, including karaoke with Spanish songs, salsa and tango dancing and a paper-cutting activity of Spanish words and phrases.

The center also prepared sumptuous Spanish and Latin American cuisines, and invited bands to play flamenco and jazz.

To mark the occasion, the center opened a three-day training program for Spanish-language teachers. It also launched online language classes on Web site

eldias.es to reach more people and provide a more convenient platform for lessons.

"Take a course of 200 hours and you'll be able to communicate fluently," Immaculada Gonzalez Puy, head of Beijing's Instituto Cervantes, said. Language courses on all levels charge a uniform rate of 1,700 yuan.

Besides providing language lessons, the government-subsidized Instituto provides assistance to researchers of Spanish language and culture. It has a huge collection of Spanish books and audio tapes to aid students and academics.

The center also administers the Spanish-language proficiency test, which is a requirement for people who wish to study or work in Spain.

Instituto Cervantes, which was established 18 years ago and opened its China office four years ago, has provided language training to



Chinese students celebrate El Dia del Español at Instituto Cervantes.

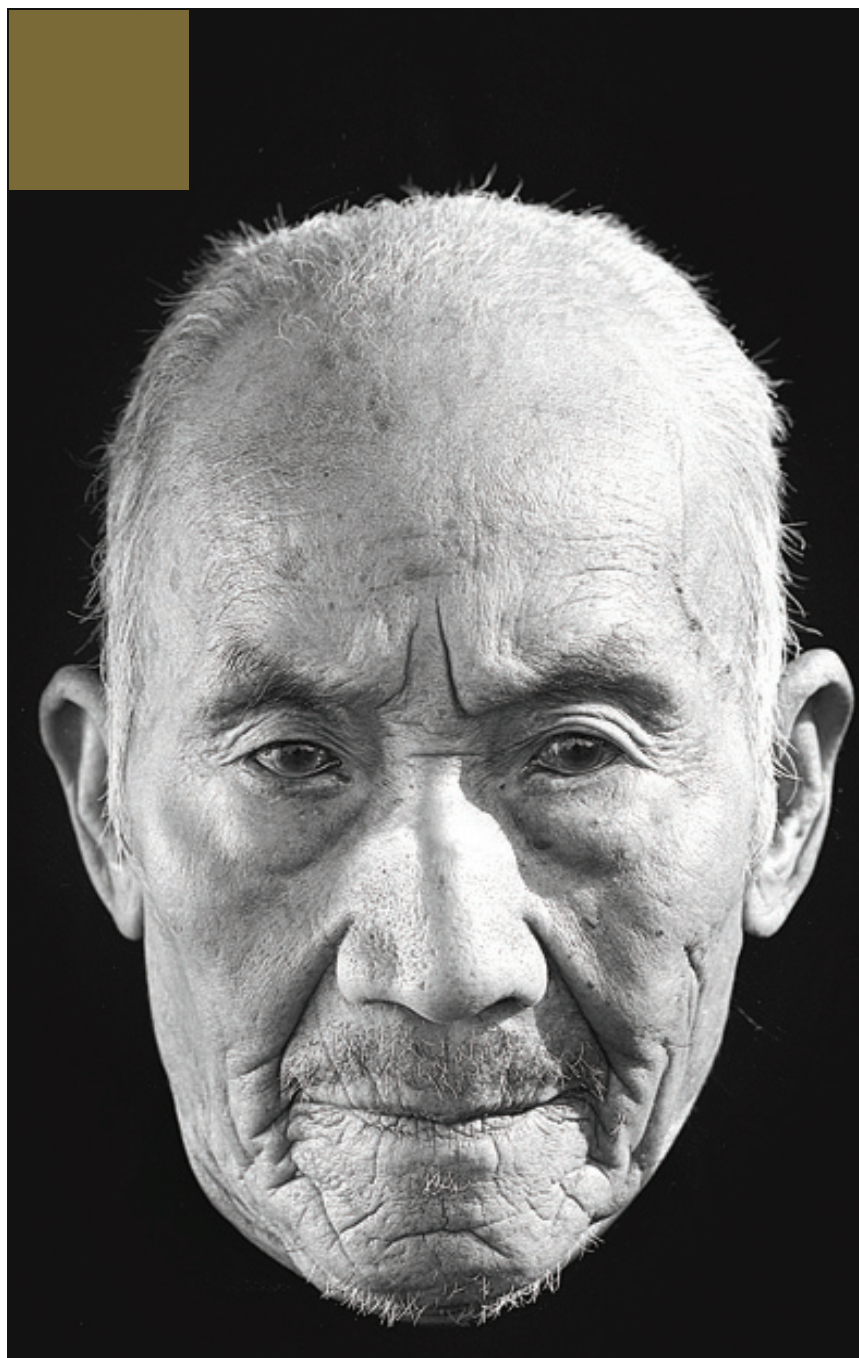
Photo by Zhao Hongyi

3,000 students in Beijing, most of whom are foreigners.

About 450 million people in more than 20 countries speak Spanish. It is the third most widely spoken language after Chinese and English. It is one of the main languages in Latin America and has become the US's second language. It is also an important

tongue in world trade and cultural exchanges, Puy said.

People who would like to know more about Spanish language classes should visit the Beijing center's Web site, pekin.cervantes.es, or its international network's site, eldias.es. Interested parties can register for classes on 5879 9666.



“I decided to take the close-up of their faces, because every story, suffering and vicissitude had left its mark there.”

Yang Yuxing, 94, was a platoon sergeant in the Songshan Battle in 1944.

Face

The brutality the cruelty

By He Jianwei

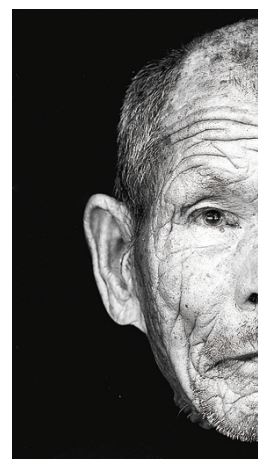
The Chinese expeditionary force was formed in 1942 to go to Burma, India, and the Middle East to help the British repel the Japanese army in Burma. The force consisted of 100,000 soldiers, half of whom were killed in action.

This episode of history has lapsed from most people's memory. Wang Jianwei started to collect photos of the surviving veterans in 2007,



Zhang Ziwen, 94, gave up his civilian pursuits to join the army. (left)

Zhou Chaoxian, 85, was pressed into the army while planting rice. (right)



Deep furrows line each face, which look like they are floating. There is no trace of anger or sorrow.

The faces stare silently at the viewer, as if they bear their suffering bravely and in silence.

Each is part of *Shadows: Veterans in the Dianxi Resistance War Against Japanese Army*, a portrait series photographed by Wang Huasha, vice president of Baoshan Photographers Association in Yunnan Province.

“When I visited Pingyao International Photography Festival in Shanxi Province in 2007, I was impressed by many artists' work. When I went back to Yunnan, I wondered what topic I could bring back to my hometown Baoshan,” Wang says.

After one month, he suddenly thought of World War II. Baoshan witnessed epic warfare as Chinese troops fought off Japanese attempts to invade China from Burma. As time passed, the tragic battles and brave soldiers fell into memory.

Wang's father, born in 1955, was an indirect witness to some of those battles. In his childhood, his father told him what happened in Baoshan. “My father saw the Japanese airplanes bomb the whole city. Walls everywhere were left crumbling,” he says.

Although that history has gradually been forgotten and built over, “most of the elderly people remember.” He decided to use his camera to hunt down Baoshan's surviving heroes.

Wang found that out of 368 veterans regis-

tered with the municipal government, only 160 to 170 were still alive. Most were over 80 years old: the oldest was 108.

Wang spent a year taking photos of those veterans. So far, he has finished 91 portraits.

Before he started, Wang was unsure how to capture his topic. It took two months for him to find an answer.

“I decided to take the close-up of their faces, because every story, suffering and vicissitude had left its mark there,” he says.

Portrait photography is a tough project. The veterans are spread out through 50 villages, and most live in the mountains. “The mountain path is narrow and rugged. The maximum speed of our off-road vehicle is only 20 kilometers per hour,” he says.

Before taking pictures, he chats with each veteran about their experience in the war and their health. Although they are over 80 years old, most “can even recite the rules and regulations of the army and sing military songs.”

Different veterans have different destinies: they came from different provinces and joined the army for different purposes.

Zhang Ziwen, a student, gave up his civilian pursuits to join the army. Zhou Chaoxian was pressed into the army one day while planting rice. Li Guixian, the youngest of three brothers, only joined to earn a living by carrying injured and dead soldiers back to camp.

Most of the veterans were common soldiers – a few were junior officers. Wang says

ces

y of history,

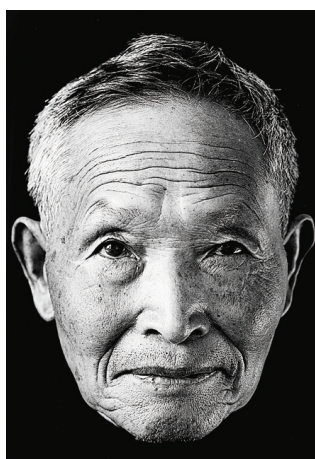
y of reality

during World War II to guard the country's southwest back-
arma. During the following three years, China sent 400,000

memories, but when a photographer from Yunnan Province
their faces became new evidence of the past.



*Lu Caiwen, 84,
joined the
army in 1942
and achieved
the rank of
lieutenant.*



the educated veterans had an easier life after
the war.

Lu Caiwen, 84, joined the army in 1942
and achieved the rank of lieutenant. He grad-
uated from Huangpu Military Academy, a
school for revolutionary military officers set
up in 1924 by Sun Yat-sen. After World
War II, he became a middle school teacher
in Tengchong, Yunnan Province. "He earned
over 2,000 yuan per month after his retire-
ment," Wang says.

But veterans living in the rural areas rarely
had it so well. After the war, they returned
home to their obscure villages. In the 60 years
since, their lives have changed little.

"If portraits can reflect brutal history, then
the veterans' lives reflect the cruelty of reality,"
he says.

One of the most impressive veterans is Li
Guixian. When Wang opened Li's door, Li was
chopping wood. "His wife told me Li climbed
10 meters up the trees everyday to bring down
firewood. When I told him it's too dangerous
for him, he said, 'I know, but I must support my
family,'" Wang says.

He saw a middle-aged man squatting in the
kitchen and holding a bowl strangely. The man
is Li's son, who became mentally ill a few years
ago while working in the city.

Another veteran is Yang Yuxing, 94, from
Luzhou, Sichuan Province, who settled down in
Gengga Village, Baoshan.

Yang lived in a small and low house with

very simple furniture. He lived with his son,
who is mentally disabled. They live by collect-
ing odds and ends from trash dumps.

Yang was a platoon sergeant in the Battle
of Songshan, the fiercest conflict of the Dianxi
War of Resistance against the Japanese Army.
The battle lasted 120 days: 8,000 Chinese sol-
diers died and 10,000 were injured.

He told Wang, "The battle continued seem-
ingly forever – until we mobilized more troops
and recaptured Songshan. In wartime, none
dared to retreat. Deserters were executed by a
firing squad: we all had to obey military law."

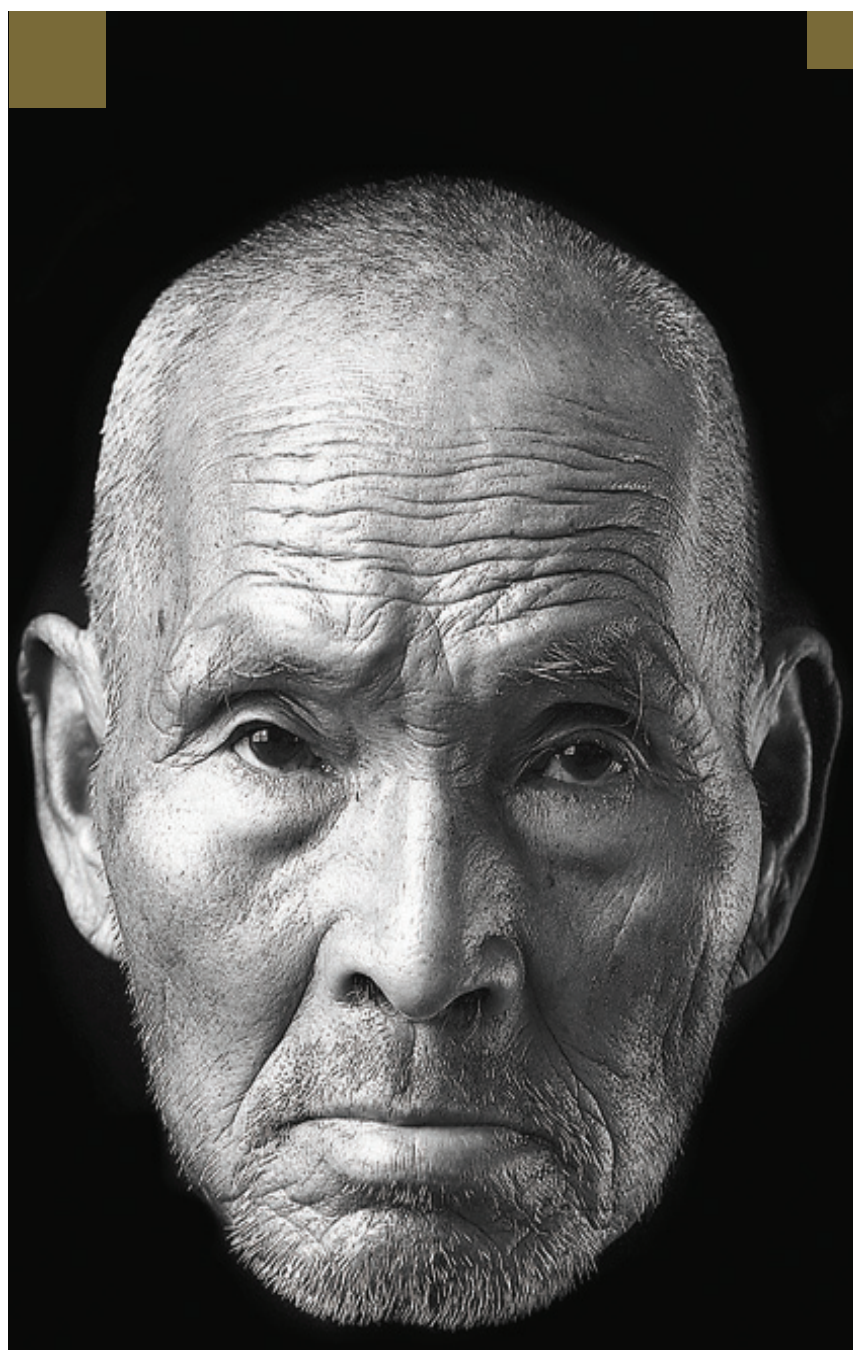
"Time is fleeting," Wang says as he looks at
his portraits. Some of the veterans have already
died since he took their portraits: the clock is
ticking for their co-mrades.

Wang decided to limit his series to 99 or
100 portraits. "It's like a kind of a sacrifice
to remember the history by taking pictures of
the people who lived it on the battlefield – the
people who will soon be gone," he says.

His next plan is to make an album of all
the portraits, and to draw more attention to the
plight of some veterans.

When his portraits were published in the
media, he received calls and letters from other
cities and provinces. A group of women in
Shanghai told him they decided to donate
money to the poor veterans.

"They will give 600 yuan a year to a veteran.
Although it is not much, the money can really help
the poor veterans in the mountains," he says.



**"If portraits can reflect
brutal history, then the
veterans' lives reflect the
cruelty of reality."**

*Li Guixian, 84,
joined the army
to earn a living.*

Photos provided by
Wang Huasha

Bandit Lovers on the road

By Charles Zhu

The bizarre love story of Bonnie and Clyde, a couple of collaborating bandits during the Great Depression, became well known with the release of the 1967 Hollywood antihero movie.

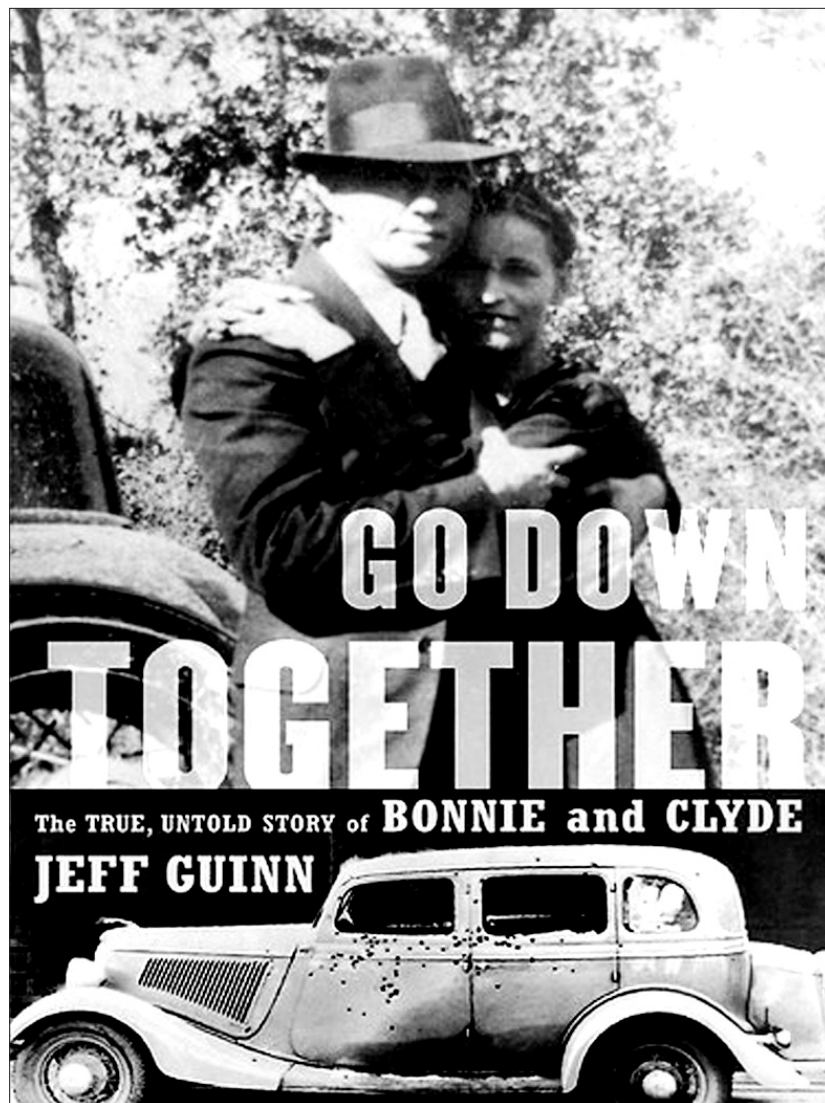
Based on intensive research, bestselling Texas author Jeff Guinn offers more of their story in *Go Down Together: The True, Untold Story of Bonnie and Clyde* (467pp, Simon & Schuster, US \$27). The author added material to tell how the two, cool and calculating, went on a robbing and killing spree leaving a wake of dead bankers and cops in their now-or-never life of pleasure.

Thanks in great part to surviving members of their family, especially Clyde's sister Marie, historians such as John Neal Phillips and dedicated collectors of criminal memorabilia provided Jeff Guinn with a wealth of materials never before published. The author's book examines the bandit couple with unprecedented insight.

Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker robbed mostly small mom-and-pop groceries and service stations. When that failed, they broke into gumball machines for meal money. Clyde cut off two of his toes while in prison and Bonnie became crippled from a terrible car crash caused by Clyde's reckless driving. They were constantly on the run from the law and lived an impossible life like animals, camping out in their stolen car, bathing in the wild and dining on canned food of cold beans and Vienna sausage. Yet they were fervent lovers. They were devoted to each other as faithfully as any true love suggests.

Bonnie and Clyde came from very poor families in the working class district of West Dallas and neither was satisfied with his reality of meager existence. Clyde spent much of his youth in a tent with his family. He dropped out from a high school and followed in the footsteps of his brother Buck: a car thief, cat burglar and armed robber. Bonnie had been married off as a teenager and was neglected by her husband to a life of baby-sitting and boredom. She yearned for excitement and glamor. When she met Clyde at a party, she fell head over heels in love with him and the two decided to run away together.

Clyde was once arrested and imprisoned in the central Texan city of Waco. Bonnie managed to get hold of a pistol and tried



to smuggle it into Clyde's hands. With the pistol, Clyde managed to escape from prison and was caught in Ohio. He was sentenced to the Eastman Prison Farm where he tried to cut off two of his toes to avoid work detail.

Clyde was finally freed on parole and went on a robbing spree on the road with Bonnie. They covered a vast area with their stolen car from Minnesota in the north to New Mexico in the west and Tennessee in the east. They squandered the money they robbed and turned to more crime when funds ran short. If anybody refused to coop-

erate, they opened fire. Clyde and his partners killed at least 10 men. They were finally tracked and killed in 1934 following an intensive manhunt.

As Americans have a fervent interest in hippie-like antiheroes, the enthusiasm for stories about Bonnie and Clyde has never ebbed since the depression. The two live on as symbols opposed to American authority and society. People remain enamored with the murderous yet glamorous, grimy yet dashing bandits; there is no question this book will be a best seller.

Renowned curator talks with Chinese artists

By He Jiamwei

"I understood that my first contribution to the Chinese scene was to record meetings and give voice to the artists," Jerome Sans, director of the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), said last Saturday at the release ceremony for his new book in 798 Art District.

China Talks: Interviews with 32 Contemporary Artists by Jerome Sans (208pp, Timezone8, 160 yuan) has interviews with 32 of the country's leading contemporary artists, including Ai Weiwei, Fang Lijun, Huang Yongping, Liu Xiaodong and Yue Minjun.

This book of talks dates back to the start Sans's work in China's contemporary art scene. From spring to winter 2008, he used breaks in his work to rush between artists' studios, observe how they work and their creative process, and through these talks began to understand their perspectives.

The 32 artists in his book all had a profound influence on the development of contemporary Chinese art, but the dialogues

can also be seen as his own exploration of the creative process behind new Chinese art.

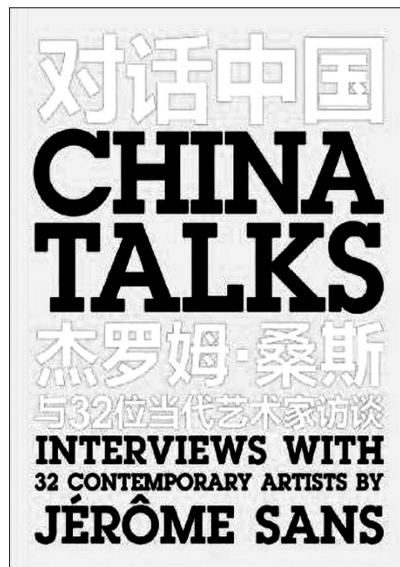
"I hope [the book] will give Chinese readers the opportunity to see artists as they truly are, free from the obscure language which characterizes contemporary art to present a more realistic and affectionate outline," he said.

In March 2008, not long after Sans was appointed as UCCA's new director, he began thinking about making a book to feature these talks.

After more than 20 years in the curatorial field and interviews with hundreds of artists from all over the world, he realized he had entered a new stage in his relationship with Chinese artists.

Sans's love affair with Chinese contemporary art began more than 20 years ago, initially through exhibitions and reading Chinese literature.

Today, he has developed deep connections with Chinese artists living in France. He worked with them, discussing art and celebrating the New Year, and they became



his closest circle of friends, igniting his passion for contemporary Chinese art.

The book is published in English and Chinese. The Chinese version was released last Saturday published by Life Reading and Knowledge Sanlian Press.

Pan Macmillan Asia book listing

Pan Macmillan Asia, regional hub for the Macmillan Group's trade publishing enterprises throughout East Asia, recommends the following upcoming books to *Beijing Today* readers. Find them at the Bookworm, Chaterhouse or Beijing Foreign Language Bookstore.

Woman with Birthmark

By Hakan Nesser,
352pp, Pan Macmillan, 120 yuan

It is the third compelling mystery in the Inspector Van Veeteren series. Janek Mitter stumbles into his bathroom after a night of heavy drinking to find his beautiful young wife, Eva, floating dead in the bath. Yet even during his trial Mitter cannot summon a single memory of attacking Eva, nor a clue as to who could have killed her if he had not. Drawing a blank after exhaustive interviews, Chief Inspector Van Veeteren remains convinced that something, or someone, in the dead woman's life has caused these tragic events. But the reasons for her speedy remarriage have died with her. And as he delves deeper, Veeteren realizes that the past never stops haunting the present.

The Flying Carpet to Baghdad

By Hala Jaber,
324pp, Macmillan, 120 yuan

Zahra, three, and Hawra, just a few months old, were the only survivors of a missile strike in Baghdad in 2003. Unable to have children herself, Hala Jaber, an award-winning foreign correspondent, was determined to do all she could to help them. Sent to Iraq by the *Sunday Times* to cover the war, the last thing she expected was to find herself trying to save two girls who had lost everything. But what happened next tells far more about that conflict than any news bulletin ever could. As a Lebanese and a Muslim, but also the employee of a London paper, Hala is in the privileged position of being able to straddle two very different worlds and explain one to the other.

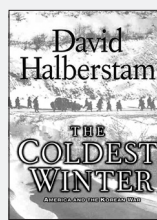
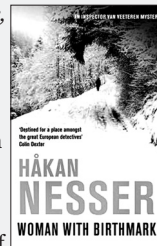
The Coldest Winter

By David Halberstam,
736pp, Pan Macmillan, 110 yuan

Up until now, the Korean War has been the black hole of modern American history.

This book changes that. He charts the disastrous path that led to the massive entry of Chinese forces near the Yalu River. He provides astonishingly vivid and nuanced portraits of all the major figures: Eisenhower, Truman, Mao, Generals MacArthur, Almond and Ridgway. At the heart of the book are the individual stories of soldiers on the front lines who were left to deal with the consequences of the dangerous misjudgments and competing agendas of powerful men. We meet them, follow them, and see some of the most dreadful battles in history through their eyes.

(By Zhang Dongya)



Net grabbers reach for free life

Born from a video

The craze started with "Post-1990s girl grabber," a video posted this January on YouTube. In the clip, a young woman named "Qiqi" from Beijing wore flashy clothes as she showed her trove of prizes won in promotional events: a cell phone, MP3 players, perfume and laptop. Qiqi says she stays home every day to search the Internet for more promotions to win.

The video started a debate about the young's attitude toward life. The mainstream was quick to lift up Qiqi as the straw-man of consumerism, but Qiqi counters that she only chases after the same products as everyone else.

"I don't need to work every day, enduring a boring job and fixed schedule. I sympathize with people who waste their days in the office to earn money to buy the things I get for free. After all, my life is much happier," Qiqi said in her blog.

The trend spread like wildfire. Shortly after Qiqi posted her video, a reputable furnishings brand began an online promotion to give away a sofa. The promotion drew over 3 million page views during the first two weeks.

Guide to grabbing

There are several Web sites where grabbers go to discuss the latest opportunities. "Beijing Grabbers," a sub forum of dianping.com, is the most active with thousands of members and an index updated daily.

"Most people think that this is just a place for the young women who hope to win free samples of cosmetics, but actually we have male users who collect these for their girlfriends and who chase after digital gadgets," David Huang, one of the forum administrators, says.

As a long-time user of the Web site, Huang was a member of many communities before settling on 2Grabbers last summer, when the forum held its own lottery. Since the Web site allows users to comment about restaurants, it also hosted events to expose netizens to restaurant food.

"Besides the free dinners, netizens in this community also share info about how to win drinks, clothes, electric appliances ... everything you need in the real life. I think 'free' is not the only word net grabbers know. Sometimes you can send a message to the organizer to win a product, and the message may cost as little as 1 yuan.

To win more, you have to learn more. There are grabbing tips and lessons written by experienced grabbers. Sometimes, a participant can get a necklace by submitting personal information like his name, address and phone number in a survey. Usually, grabbing is more like a

video game, where success depends on the player's planning and good luck.

"Net grabbers are not poor: many of them have regular jobs, good salaries and never worry about their finances. They just enjoy winning. From college students to grandmas, you can find all kinds of people on our forum," Huang says.

For profit?

Qiqi, the expert grabber on YouTube, says she sells her prizes to earn money rather than endure a regular job. Grabbers like her are "professionals" who have turned the game to a career. "Some of them became consultants for TV programs or magazine articles since they have tried so many products," Huang said.

Before net grabbing became popular, commercial Web sites had already noticed the value of

By Wang Yu

There is no free lunch – except when that lunch is a promotion. Most people skip around promotional advertisements on the Internet where manufacturers promise fantastic prizes to several winners.

But some people take these seriously, very seriously.

"Net grabber" is a new community of netizens who share information and tips for winning everything from plastic bottles to iPods. They are neither broke nor poor: they just like to get things for free.

CFP Photos

the Internet in viral marketing campaigns. Ambassador programs, consumer-generated media and more are highly valued by product marketers.

"These professional users are an important part of our business chain," said Maggie Wang, who works for a Web site that advertises similarly. "We have a platform which focuses on the experience of trying certain products from cosmetics and digital gadgets to cars. Usually we invite professional net grabbers to try the latest products from our advertisers. Then the users are asked to write test reports."

The net grabbers keep the products, and sometimes get paid. "A sample of name brand cosmetics may sell for more than 1,000 yuan, so it's possible for a grabber to live off that," Huang said. In exchange, the advertiser gets promoted and receives feedback to improve its products.

However, grabbers are not always winners. Some of the events do not really exist, and many never deliver their spoils.

"We don't allow people to place ads on the forum since it violates our original intent: to have fun and to play fair," Huang says.

Another problem is security. To participate in promotional events, grabbers usually have to give their personal information to the organizer. Some have received phone calls from salesmen of unfamiliar brands.

That means the grabber's personal information has been exposed to other companies and recorded in a database. In that sense, grabbing is a double-edged sword. It may be tough for organizers to keep information safe, and there is no governmental supervision department to oversee promotions and their handling of personal information.

"However, you discover a new attitude toward life and entertainment when you compete with others for a product or business with the manufacturers. The personal relationships we form with other grabbers are a big part of why we keep doing this," Huang said.



Wen Yi, one of the leading Chinese food bloggers

A food blogger's guide to kitchenware shops

By Annie Wei

This week, one of the country's leading food bloggers shares with *Beijing Today* where she shops for the kitchenware that helps her create mouth-watering dishes.

Besides running wenyi.name and blog.sina.com/cn/wenyi, which have received 30 million hits, Wen Yi has hosted four cooking programs on three television stations. These include Dining Everyday (Tiantian Yinshi) on CCTV-1, Perfect Cooking (Shiquanshimei) on BTV-7 and Naxiaozui Kitchen (Naxiaozui Chufang) on TravelTV.

She has published five books that discuss home cooking, baking and basic cooking techniques. Wen's fans like the way she makes preparing delicious food achievable for busy, stressed out urbanites. The lovely photographs on her blogs and books give her readers added inspiration.



Inlifeshop in Shanghai

Photo provided by Inlifestore

Novel, chic and contemporary

Inlifeshop.com home appliance shop, which has four branches in town, seeks to provide practical, affordable and quality products to consumers.

The store mainly sells its own designs, divided into eight categories: ornaments, dining, kitchen, bath, gifts, decoration, stationery and accessories.

People will enjoy browsing the shop's novel, chic and contemporary items. Its attention to display aesthetics gives extra joy to window shopping.

The brand was founded by Taiwan native Simon Tend, who has established a number of other home furnishing brands on the island and to date has 200 stores there. Inlifestore will soon open branches at The Place (9 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District) and Carrefour at (Yaojiangyuan Lu Chaoyang District).

Wen said she recently bought a set of red saucepans from Inlifeshop. She said shoppers can also check out Taobao.com for similar products.

Inlifeshop.com

Where: Solana Building 2, 6 Chaoyang Gongguan Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 5905 6909

Where: 57 Dongsu Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6522 4865

Open: 10 am - 9 pm



Tea time!



Special collections from travels

Photos by Wen Yi

Students' wholesale market

Jinwuxing, a wholesale home furnishing and appliance market in Haidian District, is popular among students on a tight budget.

The centrally air-conditioned market has three huge warehouses that contain 3,000 booths. It has a dining area, a post office and provides shoppers with free shuttle rides. People can easily get lost in its maze of showrooms.

Wen said Jinwuxing offers a variety of kitchenware, but people need to be patient to find the items they want. She said the merchandise here is reasonably priced; she got some things at 2 or 3 yuan. But because products start at already low prices, shoppers will not be able to go much lower.

Jinwuxing wholesale market

Where: 118 Zhongguancun Dong Lu, Haidian District

Open: 9 am - 5 pm

Tel: 6222 6829



Bamboo utensils have a feel of South China.



Red kitchenware creates a romantic atmosphere.

Wholesalers' heaven

Huilongguan is a huge wholesale market with around 300 vendors selling cooking ingredients, daily necessities and potted plants.

The weekend market, off Subway Line 13's Huilongguan stop, is a good place to shop for greens; many fruits and vegetables are said to be home-grown by vendors who live nearby.

Wen said she owns a lot of kitchenware from Huilongguan, but that the market has a limited selection. She said the vendors get most of their business from hotels, restaurants and inns, so they're not too excited by retailers. Wen said shoppers who get one or two items should not expect a bargain.

Huilongguan wholesale market

Where: North of Huilongguan Xiaogu, Changping District

Open: 7 am - 5 pm

Tel: 8171 9855; 8179 6388

Other places popular among expats

Laitai Flower Market

Kitchenware stores can be found at the market's basement. Across it is another place that sells colorful ceramics, with a warehouse in Laitai's parking lot.

Wen said it is difficult to get a discount from vendors here.

Where: 9 Maizidian Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6463 6145

Open: 9 am - 5 pm

Liangma Flower Market

Liangma is smaller compared to Laitai Flower Market, so it's easier to home in on what you want.

Wine glasses, candles and food containers are reasonably priced. Dining wares and glass vases can be found on the building's second floor.

Where: Yi 8 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6504 2446

Open: 9 am - 5 pm



White kitchenware is simple and practical. Photos by Wen Yi

Taiwanese Ikea

Hola is Taiwan's answer to Britain's B&Q and Sweden's Ikea. This home furnishing store sells stylish products, but at a steeper cost.

Hola

Where: 117 Xisihuan Bei Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 8849 5555

Where: B1 Longde Plaza, 186 Litang Lu, Changping District

Tel: 8484 3366

Where: 1 Beiqing Lu, Haidian District

Tel: 8070 0505

Open: 10 am - 9 pm

Small place, big menu

By Zhao Hongyi

Nasca Cafe is a small dining place in Maizidian – smaller than most studio apartments – but it has a menu that would do a bigger restaurant proud. It offers pizzas, pastas, salads, sandwiches, soups, snacks, pastries and wines.

“Most of our cheeses, mutton, shrimps and fish are imported from New Zealand,” Liu Wei, the cafe’s owner, said, explaining why its tagline is “truly gourmet from New Zealand.”

Located on the first floor of Haiyue Mingmen International Apartments, Nasca caters to expats. It has become an information exchange center for its customers, who put up ads or leave messages on the cafe’s bulletin board.

Regulars come for its pizzas, particularly Mexican Passion (small 46 yuan; large 96 yuan), flavored with chili and tomato sauces; Caribbean (small 45 yuan; large 88 yuan) with tuna, mushroom, tomato and mayo; and Harbor’s Fiesta (small 49 yuan; large 96 yuan) topped with prawns, squid, scallops, tomato and seafood sauce.

Mexican Passion Pizza

Its popular pastas are spaghetti bolognese (32 yuan), chicken mushroom fettuccine (36 yuan) and seafood pasta (38 yuan). People who love barbecues should try its BBQ pork spare ribs (small 28 yuan; large 69 yuan).

Outside the cafe are two sofa-like seats for diners who want to enjoy the summer breeze in this quiet neighborhood. But some of Haiyue Mingmen’s residents pass by to order something to bring back home.

“Our special service is home delivery,” Liu said, adding that they take orders from 9 am till 11 pm. Orders of at least 50 yuan enjoy free delivery; otherwise, delivery costs an extra five yuan.

Liu is proud to say their cafe uses eco-friendly packaging with printed letters on it. “We have insisted on this from the very beginning,” he said.

This year-old establishment, which is preparing to open two other branches in Chaoyangmen and Haidian, also sells mugs, Mao Zedong prints and Australian wines.

Nasca Cafe

Where: 105B, 38 Zaoying Bei Li, Maizidian, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am – 11 pm

Tel: 6592 4537; 13051100558

Cost: 50 yuan



Facade of Candy Cafe with a big outdoor area Photo by Zhao Hongyi

A cafe and a second home

By Zhao Hongyi

Another “community” cafe is Candy Cafe, located in a quiet area behind Sanlitun Lu, in the middle of Chinese residences and international apartments.

The Italian cafe, which is frequented by local and expat families, has received a thumbs-up for its reasonable prices. The place is divided into booths ideal for small family gatherings, business meetings and romantic dates. Its dark brown floors and white walls add to its soothing ambience.

The place comes alive on weekends: Tables inside and outside are occupied by parents and their rambunctious children.

Candy specializes in pastas and pizzas; among its most popular are tomato sauce pasta (26 yuan), seafood pasta (30 yuan), Napoli with salted fish and black olive pizza (52 yuan) and hot Hawaii with pineapple pizza (55 yuan).

But the cafe is especially proud of its signature Candy’s Favorite Coffee (25 yuan), a mixture of cappuccino and cafe latte.

“It is one of our best-sellers,” Yang Ping, the cafe’s owner, said. Other beverage favorites are mocha (25 yuan), espresso (20 yuan), American-style coffee (15 yuan) and sparkling ginger ale (15 yuan). Candy also serves freshly made fruit juices.

Children love the cafe’s desserts; must-tries are its walnut brownies (28 yuan), chocolate mousse cake (26 yuan) and blueberry cake (28 yuan).

Candy also offers home delivery, but not many customers take advantage of the service, Yang said.

Candy Cafe

Where: B12 Xin Zhong Jie, Dongcheng District

Open: 9 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6417 8153

Cost: 40 yuan



Vegetarian spaghetti

Roasted ribs
Photos by Yu Tingmei

Embracing and escaping real life

By He Jianwei

"Happy families are all alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way," goes a line from Leo Tolstoy's masterpiece *Anna Karenina*.

In the Chinese drama *Beware of Bear*, a seemingly happy family fragment following the father's death. His children eagerly try to get their hands on their inheritance.

The only daughter is a spinster; one son is money-hungry while the other has the mental ability of only an eight-year-old. There is also an adopted son – the lawyer is tasked to deal with the issue of inheritance.

"There is a secret between each person. Who can trust whom? Everyone feels insecure. It's similar to what we have to deal with in urban living," Han Bing, the director, said.

He believes each city is like a jungle: only the fittest survive.

The play's title comes from the sign placed on a car's rear window if it's a student driver behind the wheel.

"The logo is a warning that something dangerous may happen. Urban life may seem calm, but there are unseen crises everywhere, such as the financial crisis, midlife crisis, marriage crisis and crisis of confidence,"

Han said.

Beware of Bear illustrates people's reaction toward a family crisis.

How people make tough decisions in the face of temptations and intense emotions is what the director has tried to bring to the forefront.

"Happiness has become a luxury in life, considering how we have to deal with work pressures, distant relatives and poor health," Han said. "We hope the performance will lead the audience to reflect on their own life."

Although the story deals with a heavy subject matter, some of the actors' lines are humorous. This results in a light comedy that seems to be a winning formula for domestic theater. "On the one hand, the play can reflect the audience's real life; on the other hand, they also need a form of relaxation. I think these two are key to a play's success," Han said.

Beware of Bear

Where: TNT Theater, Chaoyang Culture Center, 17 Jintai Li, Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: July 2-19, 7:30 pm

Cost: 100-200 yuan; 50 yuan for students; 80 yuan on Tuesdays
Tel: 8599 6011



Upcoming

Nightlife

Contemporary Dance and Avant-garde Sax Ensemble

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Dongmianhua Hutong, Dongcheng District
When: June 29, 7:30-8:30 pm
Admission: 50 yuan
Tel: 6400 6452

Stage in July

Concert

Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra – China Concert

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 2, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6605 7006

Bache Cycle

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: July 17, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

In a Romantic Mood – The Newstead Trio Concert

Where: Concert Hall of The National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 17, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-500 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Beethoven Cycle by Jean-Efflam Bavouzet

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: July 24, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-600 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Dance

The Rain of Flowers Along the Silk Road – Dance Drama

Where: Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 9-10, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Don Quixote –

Spanish Modern Dance

Where: Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 29 – August 2, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Opera

The 2nd China International Youth Arts Week

– The Marriage of Figaro

Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: July 12-14, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 6462 8470

Tea – The Heart's Mirror

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: July 30-31, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By Jackie Zhang)

6 Saturday, June 27

Exhibition

Stars and Rain

The paintings, done by children with autism, are all on sale. Every child who buys a painting will get an invitation to join an activity with the children from Stars and Rain.

Where: MoBox Books Life, 288 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: Until June 28, daily, 10 am – 8 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8261 8538

Our World at War

Where: The Capital Library, 88 Dongsanhuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 28, daily, 9 am – 7:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6735 8114 ext. 9

Movie



2008 Ji

Where: 5/F Wenjin Hotel, Tsinghua Science Park, Haidian District

When: 4:30-7:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6252 5566

Nightlife

Section 6

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6404 2711

Wangwen Band's 10th Anniversary

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 60 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

5 Friday, June 26

Exhibition

195 Years of Obsession – A Study on Painterliness & Public Drawing Project

Where: Amelie Art Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 10, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9698



Up & Down the Pamir Mountains – Yan Yaya Oil Painting Exhibition

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until June 27, daily, 9 am – 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6400 6326

Movie

Marley & Me

Where: Haojing Plaza, 108 Zhichun Lu, Haidian District

When: 6 pm
Admission: 45 yuan (includes food and drinks)
Tel: 13911590742

Nightlife

Lee Cooper Rock Show

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 80 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

The Birth of the Succubae

Where: 13 Club (near Tsinghua University's east gate), 161 Lanqiyang, Haidian District

When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 8668 7151

7 Sunday, June 28

Exhibition



Woman of Many Faces

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 19, daily except Monday, 10 am – 7 pm
Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 8459 9269

Full Circle

Where: La Case, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 30, daily, 10 am – 11 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 7908

Movie

City of Life and Death

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm
Admission: 50 yuan; 30 for students
Tel: 6404 2711

Nightlife

Babel – Yuguo Band's new record

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Swinging Baroque

Where: Central Conservatory of Music, 43 Baojia Jie, Xicheng District

When: 7:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6642 5662

Psoriasis, a warning for the heart

What is psoriasis?

Psoriasis is a chronic, non-contagious autoimmune disease which affects the skin and joints. It is marked by patches of thick, red skin covered with silvery scales that occur on the elbows, knees, legs, lower back and scalp.

Psoriasis affects both sexes equally and can occur at any age, although it most commonly appears for the first time between the ages of 15 and 25. "Although not life threatening, the disease can be painful, affects a person's ability to function and causes psychological and emotional distress," says Xiao Shuzhen, director of Dermatology Department at Huashan Hospital.

The disorder is a chronic recurring condition which varies in severity from minor localized patches to complete body coverage. Psoriasis can also cause inflammation of the joints, which is known as psoriatic arthritis. "Ten to 15 percent of people with psoriasis have psoriatic arthritis," she says.

Psoriasis has been shown to affect quality of life to an extent similar to the effects of other chronic diseases such as depression, myocardial infarction, hypertension, congestive heart failure or type 2 diabetes.

Depending on the severity and location, individuals may experience significant physical discomfort and some disability. Itching and pain can interfere with basic functions, such as self-care, walking and sleep. Sores on the hands and feet can prevent individuals from working at certain occupations, playing some sports and caring for family members or a home. Sores on the scalp may manifest as flaky plaque in the hair often mistaken for dandruff. Medical care can be costly and time-consuming and can interfere with an employment or school schedule.

Individuals with psoriasis may also feel self-conscious about their appearance and have a poor self-image that stems from fear of public rejection and psychosexual concerns. "Psychological distress can lead to significant depression and social isolation," she says.

CFP Photo

By Venus Lee

Psoriasis is traditionally viewed as a skin disorder, but recent research shows people with the disorder have a higher risk of developing heart disease. Experts are now considering recategorizing it as a systemic inflammatory or immune-mediated disorder.

Signs of heart risk

The research, which compared 3,236 people with psoriasis with 2,500 psoriasis-free individuals, found in the first group a 78 percent higher incidence of heart disease, a 70 percent higher incidence of stroke and a 98 percent higher incidence of atherosclerosis, where blood vessels are narrowed by fatty deposits. The figures were adjusted to account for age and other risk factors.

The mortality rate for those with psoriasis was 86 percent higher than for those without the disease. In the 20 years covered by the study, nearly 20 percent of those with psoriasis died, compared to 10 percent of those without.

The study does not directly link psoriasis to the narrowing of blood vessels. It only shows that psoriasis patients are more susceptible to atherosclerosis, possibly because of how inflammation affects different parts of the body. Patients with psoriasis should have their cholesterol and blood pressure checked regularly, researchers say.

The study was conducted by researchers from the University of Miami and Yale University. It appeared in a medical journal called the *Archives of Dermatology*, published by the American Medical Association.

Treating the disease

There is substantial variation between individuals in the effectiveness of specific psoriasis treatments. Because of this, dermatologists often use a trial-and-error approach to finding the most appropriate treatment for their patient. The decision to employ a particular treatment is based on the type of psoriasis, its location, extent and severity. The patient's age, sex, quality of life, comorbidities and attitude toward associated risks are also taken into consideration.

Medications with the least potential for adverse reactions are used, Xiao says. If the treatment goal is not achieved, then therapy with greater toxicity may be used. Medications with significant toxicity are reserved for severe, unresponsive psoriasis. If topical treatment fails to achieve its goal then the next step would be to expose the skin to ultraviolet radiation. This type of treatment is called phototherapy. A third step involves medications taken internally, such as those by pills or injections.

Over time, psoriasis can become resistant to therapy. Treatments may be periodically changed to prevent resistance and to reduce the chance of adverse reactions.

Antibiotics are generally not used in routine treatment of psoriasis. However, antibiotics may be employed when an infection, such as that caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus*, triggers an outbreak of psoriasis, as in certain cases of guttate psoriasis.

Preventing psoriasis

According to Chinese medicine philosophy, the disease is caused by body fluid depletion and blood stagnation, heat and deficiency. Western medical theory attributes it to the spreading of horn cells.

"Foods which nourish and cool the blood and promote circulation or which can constrain cell proliferation are good options to prevent the disease in the first place," Dong Zhanbin, director of Andingmen hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, says.

"Fresh fruits and vegetables rich in vitamins and proteins like dark plums, shaddock, asparagus, cabbage, carrots, white turnips, eggplants, taro and water spinach are strongly recommended," he says. Patients are advised to abstain from alcohol,

seafood, spicy food, beef, mutton and dog meat.

Avoid mental stress and fatigue. "Emotional stress is also linked to psoriasis, which affects about 3 percent of adults," he says.

Flu, quinsy and pharyngitis which can cause the rashes to develop; also avoid abusing hormones, antitumor drugs or immunosuppressants because the drug will aggravate the disease, Dong says.

Keep your home clean, dry and well ventilated. Humid, cold rooms are breeding grounds for your next psoriasis outbreak. Be gentle when cleaning your existing sores. Do not scratch or scuff the skin in cases of topical infection.

Some loneliness is good for the soul

Seeking history, culture and quiet in Shaoxing

By Huang Daohen

"When I was young, I, too, had many dreams. Most of them I later forgot, but I see nothing in this to regret. For although recalling the past may bring happiness, at times it cannot but bring loneliness, and what is the point of clinging in spirit to lonely bygone days?"

These are the words of Lu Xun (1881-1936), dubbed the Father of Modern Chinese Literature. But surely Lu had fond memories of Shaoxing, the city in Zhejiang Province where he was born and grew up. Nicknamed The Venice of China, it is a great place to cool off in summer, as well as a storehouse of information on history, traditional literature and calligraphy.



Shaoxing showcases the country's ancient history and culture.

CFP Photos



Lu Xun's Former Residence



Baicao Garden inside the residence

Lu Xun's Former Residence

A one-day tour of Shaoxing is usually enough for visitors – and it starts at Lu Xun's Former Residence, the city's top tourist attraction, drawing people who wish to pay tribute to one of the country's best-known writers and poets.

Lu, a local hero, is considered one of the leading intellectuals of the May Fourth Movement and one of the greatest modern writers.

Located in the center of Shaoxing, the former residence, which has been restored to its original condition, consists of places that appeared in Lu's writings. One of them is Xianheng Restaurant, which became the setting for his short story "Kong Yiji."

To the east is Sanweishuwu or Three Flavor Study, the private school Lu attended as a child.

Parallel the house is a small canal, from which visitors can view the residence aboard little wooden boats called *wupeng*.

The site charges no admission, but signs are largely in Chinese, so you may need to bring a translator.

Shen Yuan Garden

The next stop is this garden opposite the entrance to Lu's former residence. This is the ideal place to find some peace and quiet after battling the throngs across the road.



Shen Yuan Garden



Kuaiji Mountain

Emperor Da Yu's Kuaiji Mountain

This park is one of the country's most popular historical sites, a shrine to Emperor Da Yu, the reputed founder of the Xia Dynasty (2070-1600 BC) and known in mythology as the Tamer of the Flood.

Visitors can rent a tourist cart (10 yuan) to get around, but a walk around the park is suggested. A nature lover can easily spend a whole day exploring places.

Its main path is lined with stone animal statues, each with a story about its significance to Yu The Great.

Kuaiji has a lake on which people can go boating, and by the water's edge is a square in which ceremonies or special activities are held.

The park's basic 50-yuan admission ticket allows visitors to see three of its four main attractions. One is the Ancient Village, which showcases Emperor Yu's life story, as well as his mausoleum and buildings associated with him and his family.

Another is a pavilion that contains magnificent photos of a famous opera about the emperor.

The third is the Bird Garden, which houses peacocks, black swans, ducks, geese and many other birds.

How to get there: Take Bus 2 or 11 to the park

Continued on page 21...



Shaoxing is nicknamed The Venice of China.



Lanting (the Orchid Pavilion)

Night-time canal ride

After a full day visiting historical sites, a canal ride is the best way to cap off a visit to Shaoxing – nicknamed The Venice of China because of its maze of canals and fleets of wupeng boats.

For 50 yuan, people can hop on one of the small wooden boats for a night-time outing. The boats have black awnings and are propelled by boatmen who work a long oar with their feet.

In ancient times, the boats were the primary means of transportation around Shaoxing. Today, they are a big tourist favorite.

The hour-long trip usually begins at 7:30 pm; the shroud of darkness allows visitors to better see the lights on the ancient bridges and on the buildings along the canals. Free tea is offered on board; it is prepared by tour guides right in front of visitors.

Those who find themselves uneasy at the unaccustomed peace and quiet in Shaoxing should take heart: a little loneliness is good for the soul, no matter what Lu Xun may have said.

The Orchid Pavilion

Another must-see in Shaoxing is Lanting, the Orchid Pavilion, associated with Wang Xizhi (321-379), a renowned calligrapher from the Eastern Jin Dynasty (318-420).

Located at the foot of Orchid Hill, the park is considered sacred both by the Chinese people and calligraphers overseas. It charges an admission fee of 40 yuan.

The park contains a river, temples, several pavilions and bamboo groves. It was built to commemorate an event in AD 353, in which Wang gathered 41 other poets to create poetry and celebrate life. The artists apparently wrote down verses in calligraphy while enjoying wine along a creek.

They allowed a cup of wine to float on the water, and the person before which the cup stopped was required to pick it up, drink its contents and compose a poem. It is said that 26 of them wrote 37 poems during that gathering.

Throughout the site is visitor information in Chinese and English. There are several booths in which visitors can watch calligraphers at work and purchase calligraphic materials. On the way to the exit is a scenic village that sells more souvenirs.

How to get there: Take Bus 3 or 303 from Shengli Road, or catch a bus near the city square.



A street that dates back to ancient times



A canal ride at night is the best way to cap off an exhausting day of sightseeing.

CFP Photos

About Shaoxing

Located in the northern part of Zhejiang Province and south of Hangzhou Bay, Shaoxing is a city steeped in history, culture and nature. It is known as The Venice of China because of its network of canals, and boasts of 229 ancient bridges. It is sheltered by the Kuaiji Mountains and features beautiful lakes and rivers.

Travel Information

Transportation

Trains run between Shaoxing and Hangzhou, Ningbo and Shanghai every day. Buses from Shaoxing to Shanghai (70 yuan) leave every 30 minutes, while those to Hangzhou (22 yuan) leave every 10 minutes.

Accommodation

The city has a host of hotels to suit different tastes; budget accommodation is easy to find.

Food

Local food features Shaoxing yellow rice wine, and its main ingredients are freshwater fish, poultry and bean products. A popular dish is Shaoxing chicken.

A leisure garden in busy Sanlitun

By Jackie Zhang

In the popular and busy Sanlitun area, a quiet and cozy garden-like building, Nali Patio, opened last autumn. It is a four-story, white and yellow building, where people can go for food, wine, clothes, furniture, kitchenware and a massage after a hard day of shopping.



The bar counter in Saddle and its chicken rolls.



Photos by Venus Lee

Saddle with Mexican flavor

By Venus Lee

An orange two-story building with a cartoon cactus in a sombrero marks the entrance to the Saddle Cantina.

Customers to this Mexican restaurant can experience two dining atmospheres. The dim but cozy environment on the first floor is a decent place to share intimate words and secrets, while the bright, fresh and cool second floor caters more to pleasure.

The second floor's automatic sunroof opens on bright, sunny days and closes when it rains. The light maize-yellow and sapphire walls, beautiful sombreros, big chili peppers, decorative saddles and wooden tables and chairs infuse the restaurant with the spirit of Mexico City. All the design choices were made by The Saddle's Canadian owner.

Mexican food is the love affair of the tongue, and dishes at The Saddle are worthy of that reputation. Bur-

rito, nachos, crepas aztecas, blackened chicken caesar wrap are among the most popular dishes.

By night, The Saddle morphs into a bar.

Margaritas at 50 yuan are the most popular cocktail. The house beer is also worth a taste: the distilling and brewing machines can be seen on the first floor near the stairs.

The restaurant hosts a "Cinco de Drinco" party on the fifth of every month, and DJs add to the fun on Fridays and Saturdays. "No matter where you come with family, friends or strangers, we want people to come in, relax and stay a while," Jiang Qiqi, the manager, said.

Saddle Cantina Restaurant

Where: Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Bei Jie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 2 am next day (Monday to Thursday), 10 am – 4 am next day (Friday, Sunday)

Average cost: 100 yuan
Tel: 5208 6005

Let's just Burger



By Jackie Zhang

Usually when people want a hamburger they head for McDonald's or KFC. Let's Burger, at Nali Patio, is a restaurant specializing in burgers. Its slogan, "Probably the finest burger served in Beijing," makes the claim that Let's Burger offers something totally different from fast food restaurants.

Let's Burger's bosses hail from Hong Kong. "When they saw burger restaurants were uncommon in Beijing, they decided to start selling a variety of hamburgers," Kristin Wang, manager of the restaurant, said.

Besides dozens of small tables, the restaurant also has a bar counter that offers wine and spirits.

Let's Burger offers 15 kinds of burgers. One or two new types are developed and offered for customers. "The Cheese Burger (58 yuan) is the most typical and popular," Wang said. "Burgers at the restaurant ... are bigger and have more kinds of vegetables, meat and sauces."

Starting this week, the restau-

rant has a new smoked salmon and beef burger (88 yuan). The new creation will be available for two weeks.

Let's Burger has 12 kinds of sauce to add variety to every dining experience. Wang said the sauces are drawn from many national flavors from South Korea, Japan, France, and Denmark.

All the dishes and drinks at Let's Burger were designed by one of the restaurant's partners, a chef who worked abroad.

Some people complain about the prices. "It's hard to stomach the thought that you are paying US \$10 for a burger," one diner said. But the food is worth the price. "The burgers and fries are really good; there's no comparison with McDonald's," one regular customer said.

Let's Burger

Where: D101a Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Bei Jie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – midnight

Average cost: 100 yuan
Tel: 5208 6036

Magic in the kitchen

By Jackie Zhang/Annie Wei

If you like cooking – turning fresh vegetables, meat and corn into a variety of flavors – good cookware will make your kitchen experience more enjoyable. Even if you do not shine in the kitchen, good cookware may inspire you to try.

Pantry Magic, a cookware store opened last year at Nali Patio, is the place to find essential and creative utensils for the kitchen. "We would like to be a one-stop store that provides a variety of quality, well-priced kitchenware," Catherine Chia, its manager, said. The store gathers cooks from different countries to swap tips, recipes and cultural practices.

Pantry Magic introduces new products every six weeks. Its latest additions are a cast-iron Dutch oven, colorful tea kettle, wok and espresso maker.

Chia loves to cook. She recommended the stainless steel pans and Dutch oven. "They look great to begin with, can go from stovetop to oven and are very durable," she said. She values cookware that is practical, well-made and durable.

Her favorite silicone models are those suitable for baking cakes, or for making ice cream or gelatin in shapes of castles, trains, roses and stadiums (120-200 yuan). There are smaller seashell models for making beautiful ice-cubes.

The store offers free classes in Hunan cuisine, operated with another popular expat community The Hutong, and in Pakistani chicken with The Mughal's, Beijing's only Pakistani restaurant.

Pantry Magic

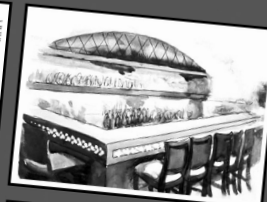
Where: D108 Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Bei Jie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 9 pm
Tel: 5208 6001



Photo provided by Pantry Magic

Nali Patio



Pantry Magic ↑
Mughal's Restaurant ↗
Let's Burger →
Saddle Cantina Restaurant ↓



Illustrated by Jiao Shu

Mughal, the first Pakistan restaurant

By Venus Lee

The clean, chic and softly illuminated interior is the first thing to catch the eye when people enter The Mughal's, Beijing's only Pakistani restaurant, located on the fourth floor of Nali Patio. The Mughal's has a panoramic view of the charming courtyard.

The owners are a Pakistani couple who have lived in Beijing for nine years to introduce their country's food to China. With yellow-painted walls covered with carvings, tapestries, mirrors and photos of India, the restaurant has become a tantalizing hangout for people from different countries for its hearty and savory cuisine and good location. Waiters are attentive and keen to offer good advice on the wide array of Pakistani and Indian-inspired foods that The Mughal's offers.

Start with refreshing homemade yogurt cucumber raita or cherry tomatoes raita (20 yuan), famous sweet drinks from Pakistan, the prepare the stomach for spicier courses.

Vegetable samosas (20 yuan), fried, doughy mouthfuls of ground potatoes, peas and lentils with subtle shades of cumin and garlic, are ordered by almost every customer.

For meat-lovers, beef seekh kebab (42 yuan) and chicken shish kebab (44 yuan), minced beef or chicken with onion, green chilies, mint and coriander with a touch of herbs and spices, served with crispy naan bread and priced 14 to 16 yuan are mouthwatering.

The chicken tikka masala (48 yuan), featuring moist morsels in a creamier-than-usual tomato and yogurt sauce, is strongly recommended for lovers.

The restaurant also provides combination plates for businesspeople which cost only 35 yuan from Monday to Friday. The Mughal's has a good location, reasonable prices and, most importantly, solid food.

Mughal's Restaurant

Where: 4/F Nali Patio, Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10:30 am – 11 pm

Average cost: 70 yuan

Tel: 5208 6082

Sanlitun known for more than bars at The Village

By Jackie Zhang

Sanlitun has always been famous for its bars and cafes, but The Village brought the area a new attraction last summer. Its colorful and fashionable buildings, squares with green plants and fountains, stores for local and international brands, movie theater, hotel and top-floor restaurants and cafes provide a complete shopping and entertainment experience that continues to draw young people.



A Blue Frog burger Photo provided by Blue Frog

Kick up your heels at Blue Frog

By Jin Zhu

People who are on the hunt for a summertime spot to relax with friends over dinner and some lounge music should check out Blue Frog's rooftop. The restaurant-cum-bar at The Village is known for its burgers, salads and margaritas.

"Our customers are mixed, both foreigners and Chinese. The place is a family favorite in daytime and a party site at nighttime," Lee Mitchell, the restaurant's manager, said. Toward the rear of the first floor is a big table that can seat 10 – ideal for a small gathering of family or friends.

Blue Frog's huge servings, its bar, kid's playroom and outdoor patio will especially give Western diners a feeling of home.

Customers, who wish to read or surf the Internet for free, can head with their book

or laptop to the patio, where tables are shielded from the strong summer sun by huge umbrellas.

"The place gives people a comfortable and relaxing feeling. For our regular customers, Blue Frog has become like a neighbor and friend that keeps them company," Mitchell said.

From 4 to 8 pm every day, Blue Frog drinks are offered at a discount: house wine, cocktails, margaritas, beers and soft drinks are two-for-one. Every Monday from 4 pm until closing, diners who order a burger can get a second one of equal or lesser value for free. Not a bad deal.

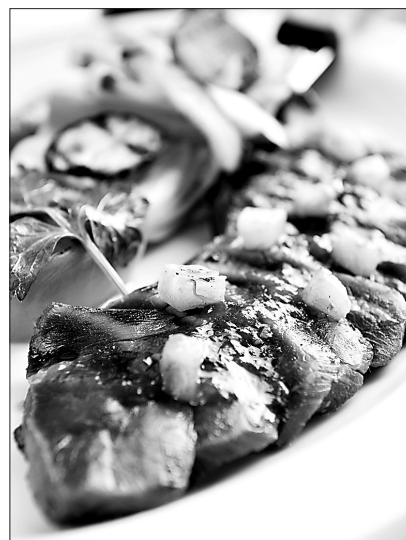
Blue Frog

Where: S4-30 The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – early morning the next day

Average cost: 100 yuan

Tel: 6417 4030



Char-grilled rib eye steak

Photo provided by Union

US + Chinese favorites

By He Jianwei

Union Bar & Grill offers customers American favorites such as tangy barbecue baby back ribs (128 yuan), fresh sauteed sea bass (145 yuan) and char-grilled rib eye steak (230 yuan for 340 grams). All its recipes were created by chef Zachary Lewison from Florida.

At the same time, Union Bar has a wide selection of Chinese dishes prepared by its Beijing chef. These include Yangzhou fried rice (48 yuan), green pepper beefsteak fried rice (78 yuan), Yu Shiang Wok fried pork with rice (48 yuan) and Xinjiang fried lamb with rice cumin (48 yuan).

The restaurant recommends its dry-fried rice noodles with beef (58 yuan), a mouthwatering mix of flat rice noodles, black beans, Sichuan peppers, ginger, garlic, sesame oil and soy sauce.

Union Bar & Grill

Where: S6-31 The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: Sunday to Thursday, 11 am – 10 pm; Friday and Saturday, 11 am – 11 pm

Average cost: 100 yuan

Tel: 6415 9117

The soybean milk and rice rolls in Slim Taste

Photos by Sherry Wu

Healthy eating at Slim Taste

By Zhang Dongya

Slim Taste Noodle Restaurant offers fine and coarse grains and other foods high in fiber and low in fat and calories as part of its philosophy of healthy eating.

The restaurant, owned by Hong Kong-based West Dragon Group, opened its first Beijing branch last December. Slim Taste maintains its original taste and quality by sourcing most of its ingredients in Hong Kong.

One of its specialties is purple rice noodles in various dishes, like plain noodles in special Sichuan hot soup (20 yuan) and diced beef with noodle soup (25 yuan), adapted from Nanjing cuisine.

The most popular orders are its distinctive beverages made from soybean and rice: black soybean milk, organic soybean milk and mixed grain rice milk.

The restaurant also sells carry-out rice rolls. Each roll's nutritional information is provided, so dieters and the health-conscious need not worry.

Slim Taste Noodle

Where: S9-32 The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Average cost: 40 yuan

Tel: 6415 9699



Continued on page 24...

... continued from page 23



The atmosphere of Ganges is thick with Indian flavor.

Photos by Sherry Wu

Indian classics at Ganges

By Zhang Dongya

Ganges opened its fourth restaurant at The Village in spring, offering Sanlitun regulars its brand of authentic Indian cuisine.

The restaurant, which also has branches in The Place, Lido and Chengfu Lu, serves dozens of northern and southern Indian classics. One of its six main menu categories is "curries," which is prepared with practically any kind of meat – chicken, lamb, seafood. It also offers vegetable curries and egg curries.



Ganges recommends its butter chicken (49 yuan), cooked with tomatoes and onions in butter and cream sauce. Diners who prefer a spicier flavor should try the southern Indian favorite chicken vindaloo (48 yuan) – tender chicken pieces with freshly ground spices served with quartered potatoes in vindaloo gravy.

Another signature Indian dish is lamb rogan josh (51 yuan), which hails from the country's north and consists of tender lamb pieces cooked in

rich gravy with various herbs and spices.

People who like barbeque should not miss the tandoori chicken (98 yuan for a whole chicken). The meat, marinated with yogurt and spices, is roasted in a clay oven to achieve its lip-smacking goodness.

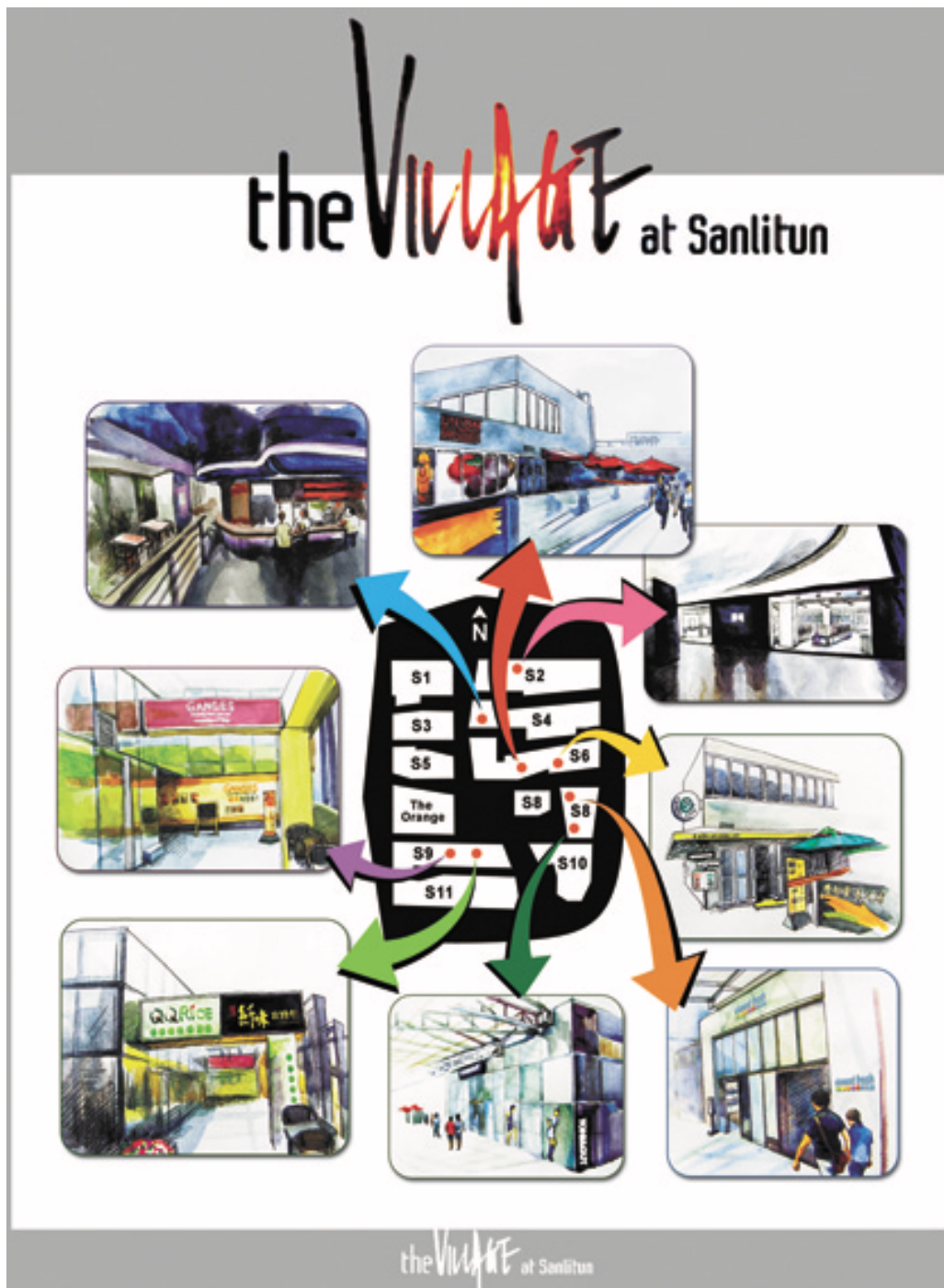


Ganges also offers desserts that are ideal for summer; one of them is malai kufli (19 yuan), homemade ice cream sprinkled with nuts. Its beverages include local favorites masala tea (18 yuan) and mango lassi (25 yuan), a fruit and yoghurt drink flavored with spices.

The two-story restaurant at The Village, which can seat at least a hundred people, has a stage on the upper floor in which Indian performances are held on some evenings.

Ganges

Where: S9-31 The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am – 11 pm
Average cost: 100 yuan
Tel: 6416 0181



Illustrated by Jiao Shu

Sundan offers more eco-appliances

By Annie Wei

Sundan, a home appliance store, opened its first Beijing store in the lifestyle section "Nature Living" at The Village. It is known in Shenzhen for having a dozen high-quality stores.

The home appliance section is popular with customers who live nearby, especially expats. Unlike the major Suning and Gome, which display only plastic models of their products, Sundan shoppers can touch and test real laptops, cell phones and digital cameras.

Sundan has a good selection of air and water purifiers. It is the only retailer of the Swedish-made Blueair, which is avail-

able in four models with prices 2,780 to 6,980 yuan.

Cleansui, a water purifier, by Mitsubishi Bayon has products ranging from 550 to 3,900 yuan. The 500 yuan unit is made for young people renting an apartment, and the 3,900 yuan one is for family use. The manufacturer sends a team to the customer's house to install the purifier. Cleansui's cartridges must be changed periodically: a purification cartridge lasts three years in Japan and a year and a half in Beijing.

Sundan

Where: S2-10, The Village, 19 Sanlitun, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6415 4732



Photo by Jiao Shu

Other spots to find Beijing Today at The Village

Tony & Guy

Where: S8-33 The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6417 4188

Herbal Cafe

Where: S6-33 The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6416 0618